

LEADER & Loudoun Today

Purcellville Repeals Longstanding Land Use Agreement With County

– Action Upends How Urban Growth Decisions Will Be Made –

On Aug. 14, the Purcellville Town Council voted to terminate the 1994 Annexation Agreement with the County and to eliminate the 1995 Purcellville Urban Growth Area Management Plan (PUGAMP), a jointly agreed-to plan required by the Annexation Agreement. PUGAMP was approved by the town and the county as the guiding framework for the future development of approximately 3,100 acres immediately surrounding the town. In exchange for accepting the development pattern laid out in PUGAMP, the town gave up the right to seek city status in the future. Now that PUGAMP is being eliminated, the Town Council has announced its plan to seek city status.

In 1999, the Town of Purcellville amended PUGAMP, identifying a relatively small number of parcels in the urban growth area immediately adjacent to the town as Phase I. The town could annex these properties unilaterally by adopting an annexation ordinance. Annexation of property outside of Phase I would require the County's agreement. Phasing addressed concern over the town's limited ability to provide water and sewer service to additional users.

From the summer of 2003 until May of 2006, the town and county conducted an exhaustive review of PUGAMP to determine whether any changes or revisions to the pattern of development in the Urban Growth Area were necessary or jointly desired. Five public input sessions were held and a citizens' advisory committee was formed by the town to provide input.

Near the end of that review, Councilman Lazaro proposed amendment language that would have essentially prevented the County from building public facilities (schools, firehouses, libraries, etc.) in the Urban Growth Area without town approval.

At that time, Fields Farm was one of 23 properties the School Board was considering as the site for the new Western Loudoun High School. The agreed-to 1995 PUGAMP explicitly called for a new high school to be built in the Urban Growth area north of the Route 7 By-Pass.

The Republican-controlled Board of Supervisors could not accept Mr. Lazaro's proposal and after considerable debate, the review and update process was halted, and none of the

Continued on page 18

Board of Supervisors Relaxes Approval Process for Big Box Stores, Government Facilities and Commercial Uses

– By Mary M. Bathory Vidaver

Few issues bring out more crowds of speakers to a public hearing than new schools, monopolies, and special events by vineyards or B&Bs. However, actions taken by the Board of Supervisors at its July 17 business meeting may eliminate such hearings.

First, the Board overturned a Zoning Ordinance amendment passed by the last Board requiring large retail establishments (big boxes) to apply for a special exception. Board members expressed concerns that the requirement imposed too much regulation. The Board also indicated its intent to eliminate Special Exception requirements for schools and other government facilities. Finally, the Board proceeded with an effort to streamline the process for a host of commercial uses.

School and county staff support the change for public facilities, noting that it would lower the costs and increase the speed of public facilities' construction. According to Sara Howard-O'Brien of Loudoun County Public Schools, the change would conservatively save the county \$50,000 per application, but "the real savings, albeit hard to quantify," is the months saved and efficiency gained.

There are a few considerations yet to be discussed by the Board. First, a special exception use requires a legislative process, while a by-right use is an administrative process. There are three key differences between the two: the decision-maker, opportunity for public input, and decision criteria.

Continued on page 18

Case Against Couple Accused of Illegally Removing Signs is Dropped

– By Valerie Joyner

The controversial prosecution of George Kingsley and Karen Nutt, the Loudoun County couple accused of allegedly removing "Cage Fighting" signs from private property owned by Majid "Magic" Kayhan in Purcellville has been dropped by prosecutors under a procedure known as null process. Commonwealth Attorney Jim Plowman's office had originally charged the couple with misdemeanor larceny and trespassing.

Posting of temporary signage in the public right of way is a violation of the Virginia Code 33.1-373. Loudoun County zoning ordinance (5-1200) also forbids such signage. In the case of events, Purcellville zoning ordinances allow the posting of one event sign of no more than four square feet, but the sign must be on the private property where the event is being held and the event promoter must get a permit for the sign.

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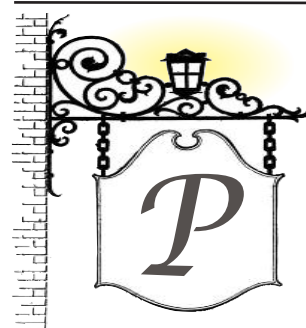
Loudoun Storm Snags National Softball Title

The Olympics in London are not the only place where gold medals have been won. A Loudoun county girls fast pitch travel softball team, the Loudoun Storm 16U Red, coached by JJ Merchant, completed a 32-6-1 spring/summer season by winning the 2012 Amateur Softball Association 16U National Championship Eastern title. They also finished as the Virginia state runner-ups in both ASA and USSSA age group tournaments.



Speacht (Woodgrove), Brittany Umphlett (Woodgrove), Kailey Liverman (Loudoun Valley), Courtney Dieterich (Loudoun Valley), Carrie Merchant (Woodgrove), Jazmyn Rohrer (Woodgrove). Manager is David L. Dieterich.

Players, front row, left to right: Addison Dieterich (Loudoun Valley), Hannah Ritter (Skyline), Taylor Stocks (Musselman). Back row, left to right: Jami Adler (Tuscarora), Paige Schaefer (Woodgrove), Emily Ritter (Skyline), Holly



First Friday Purcellville starts Sept. 7!

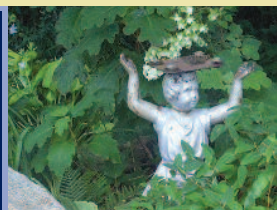
See pages 6, 7 & 23.

Wild Loudoun, page 10



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Dr. Mike, My parents have rented a beach house for our entire family for many years now. This year my husband, our children and I spent several days with them, as did my brother and my sister and their spouses and children. My parents have always paid for the beach house without complaint, but this year I offered to chip in and paid half...without telling my husband. I purposely avoided telling my husband because he would have immediately expected my siblings to contribute equally. The problem is that my husband and I make very sizable incomes and my siblings do not. More to the point, my siblings have pretty much relied on the free beach week from our parents for their family Summer vacation for years now. If my husband were more sensitive to their needs and the situation, I wouldn't have had to lie. Anyway, I finally told my husband what I did, and he is furious with me. We haven't spoken for days, and I don't know what to do. I don't think I owe him an apology. I feel he is wrong and is being pig headed. Your thoughts are appreciated.

- T in Loudoun County

T, I think you do owe your husband an apology. Keeping financial secrets from your husband with your parents, or anyone for that matter, is never a good idea. I also think that the bigger issue here is for you to understand your motivation. You write that your parents have paid for the beach house year after year and without an expectation of payment from you or your siblings, yet you

Ask Dr. Mike



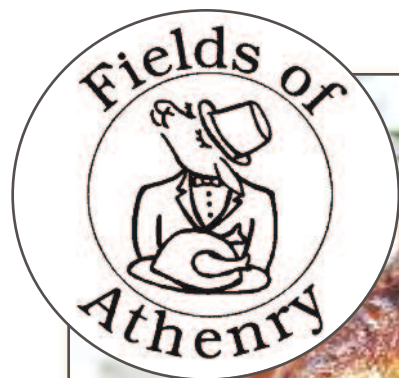
felt compelled to pay half of the cost this year. Why has accepting your parents' very generous annual gift suddenly become difficult for you? Are you feeling guilty over your parents' generosity? Do you feel badly for having greater financial success than your siblings? If your generosity was rooted in guilt or emotional conflict, you (and your husband) should know this about yourself and address it. If, however, your generosity was just a gesture of gratitude, you could have included your husband in advance so that the gift could have been something you did together and felt good about together. For example, you and your husband could have agreed to purchase a nice thank you gift for your parents after this year's beach week. Perhaps you could have paid for a weekend getaway for your parents as a couple. It seems that your husband might have felt better about giving a gift that was from you both directly and free and clear of having anything to do with your siblings. In summary, once you

close in on why you did what you did, I recommend you calmly apologize to your husband for not including him in your decision and then explain your reasoning. You should also encourage your husband to open up about why he became so upset - is he upset about the money, the deception, your siblings or something else? The two of you need to come to some agreement on what happened and then discuss how you will remain united in supporting each other's ideas and needs in the future.

Dr. Mike, My husband and I were told by our son's first grade teacher to have him evaluated over the summer. Our son is 8 and struggled badly with writing and reading and with focusing and paying attention this past year. We feel like his teacher was politely telling us that our son has a learning disorder or ADHD and to fix him before he returns to school. We went to our pediatrician who then told us that we needed a "psychoeducational evaluation" and that pediatricians do not do that. We called around to several testing practices, including Ashburn Psychological Services, and discovered that psychoeducational testing is quite expensive when done privately. We didn't end up doing any testing. We feel strongly that we shouldn't have to absorb the cost for private testing and that the school should be addressing his learning and attention problems. Your assistance is appreciated.

- E in Loudoun County

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“Mr. Charlie is an Amazing Man” - Barack Obama

Charles Clark, Loudoun’s Oldest WW2 Veteran Meets the President ... Turned 105 on August 23



Photo credit: Christopher Dilts

– By Carol Morris Dukes

Mr. Charlie Clark, Loudoun County’s oldest surviving WW11 veteran, was honored by President Barack Obama in a private meeting preceding the President’s recent rally in Leesburg. Also in attendance was Mr. Clark’s niece, Loudoun County historian Elaine Thompson.

While presenting Mr. Clark with a medal for his war service, President Obama asked Mr. Clark how long he had resided in Loudoun. “Well,” answered Mr. Clark, “on the 23rd of this month I will have lived here for one hundred and five years.” An aston-

ished Barack Obama, also celebrating a birthday this month, hugged Mr. Clark and asked him for his “secret” before the three posed for a picture together. Ms. Thompson said: “It was the most exciting that I have experienced lately. He was very nice, very warm. After the speech, he returned to us and I told the president how proud I was of him.”

A resident of Purcellville, “Mr. Charlie,” as he’s known to his friends, is a former Private First Class in the 3238 Quartermaster Company of the European theater. He still lives at home where he enjoys good health and follows politics closely.



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City Status – The Real Costs

– By Mary M. Bathory Vidaver

At two meetings this summer, Purcellville Town Council members discussed pursuing city status for the town. Exploring city status for the town was one of the council's top priorities for 2010, and in a recent Purcellville committee meeting, Councilman Tom Priscilla asked that the Virginia General Assembly be lobbied to lift the state's current moratorium on towns seeking city status. Vice-Mayor Joan Lehr has also commented that the town's desire to seek city status was one of the reasons for eliminating the Purcellville Urban Growth Area Management Plan (PUGAMP).

Before the town can act on this idea, the General Assembly must lift its twenty-five-year-old moratorium on granting new city charters. The moratorium will automatically expire in 2018, but the General Assembly could lift it earlier.

Virginia cities are independent. City residents are not residents of a county. When a Virginia city annexes land from a county, all tax revenues from those parcels is lost to the county forever. This contrasts to land annexations by towns, wherein a town gains new revenues from the expansion of its boundaries without loss of revenue to the county.

In both city and town annexations, land use control transfers to the annexing entity. While a town can only condemn land within its boundaries, a city has the power to condemn land in a neighboring county for public use. Both towns and cities can negotiate boundary-line adjustments with an adjacent county.

It appears that the primary consideration for supporters of this effort is keeping tax revenues in Purcellville. Ted McCormack, who served on the staff of the State's Com-

mission on Local Governments, agreed that this was a key benefit. McCormack also noted that city status would eliminate the current dilution of the town's voice in county affairs since it would no longer be a part of the county.

There are significant financial costs associated with assuming city status. First, Virginia Code requires that the new city assume the town's existing liabilities and a "just and reasonable proportion" of the county's outstanding debt. With \$1.1 billion currently outstanding in county debt this would likely be no small cost. A city must also provide a full array of urban services, including free, high-quality public schools for all children of school age within its boundaries.

Of the five cities in Northern Virginia four maintain their own school system. Fairfax City students attend Fairfax County schools. In 2012 the city paid \$12,538 per student, slightly less than the cost per county student of \$12,820.

City status also requires town officials, businesses, and residents to accept financial responsibility for a judicial system, a Commissioner of Revenue's office, and other mandated services. They must decide what discretionary services to provide and how to provide them.

Do the benefits outweigh the costs for Purcellville? Purcellville Mayor Bob Lazaro did not respond to a request for an interview and no studies appear to have been as yet conducted. However, the state-appointed Grayson Commission recommended that the Commonwealth should create no further cities and proposed a means for cities to revert back to towns due to the increasing lack of financial viability.

Two cities, South Boston and Clifton Forge, have already reverted to town status.

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View From the Ridge – by Andrea Gaines

Please Skip the PR and Protect the Things We Love

Gov. Bob McDonnell has appointed Purcellville mayor Bob Lazaro to the Virginia Land Conservation Foundation (VLCF).

The VLCF – designed to protect the working farms, forests, natural areas, parks, rivers, and historical sites critical to the state's economy, culture and quality of life – has spent more than 42 million dollars since 1999. That's serious money and political influence, and you have to wonder whether Bob Lazaro is a fitting choice.

In the 5 years since being elected mayor, Mr. Lazaro has overseen one controversial action after another regarding the preservation of Purcellville's history and the conservation of the broader local environment upon which this growing town has such an impact.

Under the leadership of Mayor Lazaro, Purcellville has embarked on a visible campaign to earn awards and bring in grant money for "green projects," aided by good grantwriters and a very effective PR effort.

But whether it's the "Seiman's Sustainable Communities" award, Purcellville's "Tree City USA" status, or the mayor's recent recognition by Gov. McDonnell, the real measure of Purcellville's leadership on conservation, historic preservation and support of the local economy lies in its actions and what it is setting in motion in western Loudoun ... not on an awards application.

A little over a year ago a handful of pretty shocked citizens held their breath while a wrecking ball tore into the old Cole farm barn. We knew the barn was to be moved as part of the new Harris Teeter shopping center. But, the town's endless PR machine had been touting an adaptive reuse of the Cole farm house and barn, and the town's plan to carefully dismantle and rebuild the barn was part of the application that won the Seiman's award. Looking at the former site of the Cole farm – now a shopping center attractive only

in a faux farm kind of way – you have to wonder what values were sustained here.

Across the road from the shopping center is Crooked Run Orchard, one of a handful of farms to earn a Virginia Century Farm designation. To earn it the farm must be in operation today and have been in operation for at least 100 years – no small feat. Crooked Run attracts over 20,000 people annually to its pick your own business. But, Purcellville is putting a road through the farm, separating front fields from back fields, compromising a wetland on the property and making life very difficult for this farmer. Again, you have to wonder what is being protected, here.

Tree City USA rewards communities for planting new trees – a worthy goal. But, now I'm standing in the parking lot at Fireman's Field across the street from the town's new offices. Fifteen or so 200-year old oak trees were sacrificed for this lot. Tree City USA?

Traveling south out of town down Maple Venue towards the historic village of Lincoln I'm once again questioning Gov. McDonnell's choice of Mayor Lazaro for the VLCF.

Lincoln, founded in the mid 1700s and identified as one of the most endangered historic places in the state of Virginia is just one and one half miles from Purcellville. The town expanded its boundaries down Maple Avenue towards Lincoln via annexation about a decade or so ago. Now Purcellville has repealed a longstanding town/county agreement governing where, when and how fast the town could annex land in order to grow more. Before repeal the county had a pretty good say in this process. Now the decision is mostly up to Purcellville, and I wonder, will Purcellville be a force in protecting the things I love, or should I wait for the next PR campaign that glosses over the potential damage as Purcellville announces its next annexation?

We Welcome Your Letters to the Editor!

Submissions may be sent to Editor@BRLeader.com, or via mail to PO Box 325, Purcellville, VA 20134-0325. Please include your name, address and telephone number. We reserve the right to edit submissions as necessary. Deadline for print edition is the third week of each month, or, online any time.

Letters to the Editor

Main Street Wings Closing Brings Sadness

Dear Editor:

As most of you know by now, Main Street Wings in Purcellville is no longer in existence. It came as a total and sudden shock to those of us that have worked there putting our blood, sweat and tears into making it the extremely successful restaurant that it was.

Main Street Wings has been known for years for its friendly atmosphere and comfortable environment. Tuesday nights were a circus with families for kids night, Wednesday every football player came to eat his body weight in "all you can eat" wings, Thursdays we had our loyal Freddy and friends come

(even after we took their favorite ribeye dinner off the menu!). After a riotous uproar we even had to put mac and cheese back on the menu for our regulars. What other place would have done that?

I have never worked with a staff that worked so hard, and I have never been surrounded by so many people whose hearts were filled with kindness and love.

The unique individuals that made Main Street Wings what it was cannot be found anywhere else. As the store manager, being part of this wonderful place will be something I will never forget. I cannot begin to thank each and every person that contributed to the Main Street Wings legacy. To

Continued on facing page

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Committees at a Glance

Committees at a Glance informs our readers about the inner workings of local government and how actions and decisions impact our everyday lives. Here we discuss actions of the Purcellville Economic Development Advisory, the Loudoun County Government Reform Commission and the Purcellville Planning Commission.

Purcellville Economic Development Advisory Committee (EDAC) – Aug 7, 2012

● *Topics: Facade grant allocation, Valley Springs II (Purcellville A Street) Proposed Development Update.*

– Owners of the property which houses the Ray Fields Antiques business were given a facade grant not to exceed \$2,500.

– Developer Joe Bane spoke in favor of his Valley Springs II/Purcellville A Street project. Mr. Bane said that Blue Ridge District Supervisor Janet Clarke (R) recommended that he come to the EDAC meeting and contact Councilman Jim Wiley prior to the meeting. The 67 acre property – across from Blue Ridge Middle School and zoned residential (26 homes permitted) is currently outside the boundaries of the town and under county jurisdiction. This 67 acre parcel would need to be annexed by the Purcellville Town Council to do the project. Mr. Bane said he had been approached by the town with the idea of developing the property for senior housing.

Bane said that he had been told that there is a need for senior housing. He has spoken to BB&T Capital Markets in Richmond who finances some senior projects. The company has an affordable housing model – a combination of an independent living, assisted living, and continuing care retirement community. Bane said the com-

pany would be interested in financing anything up to \$200 million. He said he could also get some funding from state and local sources.

Also, Bane went to the county to gather statistics on the need for senior housing in general and for low-income senior development including excerpts from the "Apartment Guide." He said that there were 10,000 households over the age of 65 in Loudoun County. "I am going on gut instinct ... going on what Loudoun County is telling us."

"There is a need for it," said Bane, and he added that he wants the town to tell him what they want to see. He mentioned extended care, retirement living, nursing home facility, and an affordable housing model. "There is nothing being built for middle class seniors," he stated. Councilman Jim Wiley said that he would also like to see duplexes and he wants to see all the property to be used. Bane added that each entity would probably be owned by different groups since he would subdivide different parcels. He added that he would like to involve one or two local health care companies – INOVA Health Care and Valley Health.

Committee member Ian Patterson, a resident of Round Hill, said "You have a very tough business decision to make and that is you have to come to [the] town with a plan. He added, "Have an overall plan and phase it. This is a winner."

With the Southern Collector Road soon to be finished, Bane said that it would not be a drain on town infrastructure. For the entrance to the proposed development, he said he could purchase property coming off of Lincoln Road. He added that this development would help Purcellville pay off the town's \$33 million debt for the sewer upgrade completed several years ago to increase capacity for future growth. (Note: Purcellville had a window of time to either leave the system as it was [at approximately 40%

capacity] – or increase capacity – and the town chose the later.)

Purcellville Planning Commission Meeting Aug. 16, 2012

● *Topics: Proposed Zoning Ordinance Amendment to allow by Special use Permit Student Homes (8 students per residential home)*

Several residents came before the committee to object to the proposed amendment to allow up to eight students to live in residential districts. According to the state statute, currently no more than three unrelated adults may live together in one house. Patrick Henry College would like to have up to eight students in a house and they would either own or lease the houses. If passed a "student tenant" would be defined as a college or high school student at a college or high school.

The cities of Blacksburg, Charlottesville, and Newport News allow 3 unrelated adults to live in single family homes. In multi family units 4 are allowed. The three cities have found greater impacts with unrelated individuals (as opposed to families). Each non related renter is considered a family or an individual household, as they operate under different time tables.

The Planning Commission, at the June 7 meeting, recommended that the Purcellville Town Council review the Purcellville Urban Growth Area Management Plan (PUGAMP) with a joint meeting with the county. The motion passed with Paciulli, Bowman, Packard and Beese voting yes.

Loudoun County Government Reform Commission – Aug. 30, 2012

● *Topics: Commission Membership, Updates, County Assessor's Office Reporting Structure, Mayor Lazaro's Request to Speak*

The commission began its meeting to address concerns by Board of Supervisors (BOS) Chairman Scott York and Algonkian

"According to the state statute, currently no more than three unrelated adults may live together in one house. Patrick Henry College would like to have up to eight students in a house and they would either own or lease the houses. If passed a "student tenant" would be defined as a college or high school student at a college or high school."

Supervisor Suzanne Volpe regarding the failure of their appointees to attend the commission's meetings. York and Volpe asked Commission Chairman Tom Julia to take the necessary action so that replacements could be speedily appointed. Thus, the commission's first action was to pass a motion requesting that the BOS officially remove the two members from the commission for lack of "attendance, participation, and communication." Commissioner John Whitbeck, elected this year to be Chairman of the 11th District Republican Committee, abstained.

Chairman Tom Julia informed the members that the Economic Development Committee would take up a discussion of the commission's recommendation that the Board establish an Economic Development Authority. He urged members to attend that meeting on September 17th.

Commission members provided a timeline of further efforts with a focus on what could be completed by November. This deadline is based upon the timing of the county's FY'14 budget process, to which the commission hopes to provide meaningful ideas for the Board's consideration. Topic leaders believed that the following items could be completed by then: shared services, Loudoun Water governance, adult day care, and the structure of the county's fire and rescue services.

The commission discussed its recommendation regarding the location of the Assessor's Office within the county government structure. The members present were

Continued on page 22

Letters to the Editor, continued from facing page

the past and present employees who have always been like family: Thank you for all your dedication and hard work. Regardless of the circumstances (no air conditioning/heat, no food deliveries, etc.) you gave it your all. The business couldn't have survived this long without you. For each and every guest: A sincere thank you for continuing to support us with your patronage. Without customers a business is nothing. Main Street Wings was Purcellville's "Cheers" where everyone knew your name and you could feel comfortable regardless of age, color, size, occupation or religious belief. Each guest was our family and we treated them with respect and kindness. So with doors locked and lights out, Main Street wings is gone but will never be forgotten. – Kim Cummings, General Manager Main Street Wings Purcellville

A Simple Thanks

Dear Editor:

At the Thursday, Aug. 16 Purcellville Planning Commission's public hearing, an impres-

sive number of citizens expressed their views in opposition to the proposed "Student Home" zoning amendment. We also received some additional clarity from Mr. Carl W. Schreiber, executive vice president and treasurer of Patrick Henry College, about the college's request. I want to extend my thanks to all who participated in the hearing.

My brief recount of the issue (I defer to Commission's minutes regarding accuracy) is that residents were unanimous in their opposition to the proposal; the two individuals who spoke in favor being employees of Patrick Henry. Concerns about noise, traffic, parking and future legal issues were raised by almost every citizen who spoke. While Mr. Schreiber allayed our concerns about fast tracking this proposal, it was obvious this proposal is well ahead of need and requires thorough analysis prior to consideration. Needing to remain starkly present in the minds of the citizenry is: 1) the discussion of this proposed zoning amendment is not over; and, 2) there is an insidious aspect to this

proposal that most of us didn't realize until Thursday evening.

Addressing the first issue, I say to the citizens of Purcellville, stay and/or get engaged. Why? Let me describe what I allude to as my second concern. The proposal to amend residentially zoned areas via Student Home Special Use Permit (SUP) application "localizes" the problem. To argue the merits of the SUP application process mandating additional public hearings to address public concern is one-dimensional. Whether intentional or not, the resultant product of this strategy "divides and conquers." It narrows the voice of opposition to the residents of immediately surrounding properties and consequently degrades the individual citizen's ability to garner town-wide support going forward. You will be a lone voice in opposition, the optics of which will simply not be in your favor. Do not expect that the Council can read your minds as to how to represent constituent desires. This issue is a town wide problem and your proactive input at Planning

Commission and Town Council meetings is required. – Chris Funkhauser, Purcellville

Make Oral Health a Family Matter

Dear Editor:

In these tough economic times, many of us are looking for ways to cut corners and save money. No amount of money is worth sacrificing your health, however, and that includes oral health. We would like to remind your readers that brushing, flossing and maintaining regular visits to the dentist not only helps keep your smile healthy, but can ultimately save you money as well. Dental-related illnesses cause adults to lose more than 164 million work hours and children to lose more than 51 million school hours each year. This time and money could be saved by simply brushing and flossing every day, avoiding tobacco use, eating healthy foods and scheduling regular dentist appointments for preventative care.

Research shows that oral health is tied

Continued on page 12

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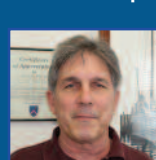
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Good Shepherd Alliance Elects Rising High School Seniors as Board of Directors

– By Mark Gunderman

The Good Shepherd Alliance (GSA) is proud to announce its newest student board members for the 2012-2013 school year. Will Avdellas (Tuscarora High School) has accepted the role of Chair and will be supported by Taylor Nelson (Broad Run High School) as Vice Chair of the GSA Youth Advisory Group. Both Will and Taylor will serve as student board members of the GSA Board of Directors as well. Avdellas and Nelson provide the GSA with leadership,

volunteerism in social services, and the ability to network with other student organizations, youth groups and community leaders. These students display a passion to plan and initiate programs to get high school youth involved in serving the needs of the indigent and homeless in Loudoun.

GSA collaborated with LCPS Superintendent Dr. Edgar B. Hatrick, Director of Student Services Suzanne Jimenez and Supervisor of Guidance Services Marilyn Jackson to solicit resumes from each Loudoun County high school. GSA Vice

Chair and Youth Director Bob Ohneiser along with fellow GSA board members Jim Baratta, Linda Lefebvre, James Thrash and Bahman Batmangheidj assisted in establishing the criteria and the selection process of the student board members.

This is the fourth year that the GSA has invited members of the youth community to participate on their Board of Directors. The Youth Advisory Group works shoulder to shoulder with the board to promote GSA homeless services and programs in Loudoun schools and the GSA pledges its resources



Loudoun County Public School (LCPS) Superintendent Dr. Edgar B. Hatrick, Good Shepherd Alliance Vice Chair and Youth Director Bob Ohneiser, Student Board Members Will Avdellas (Tuscarora High School) and Taylor Nelson (Broad Run High School) at LCPS Administration Building in Ashburn.

Continued on page 16



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Local Auctioneer is State Champion

Leesburg Man Repeats Award His Father Also Won

— By Andrea Gaines

The Virginia Auctioneers Association (VAA) has crowned its 35th annual Grand Champion Auctioneer. The 2012 champion is a local man — Brian Damewood, of Leesburg, VA. “This contest was filled with many quality auctioneers,” Damewood said. “I feel very fortunate to be crowned this year’s champion from a group of so many talented auction professionals who would do an excellent job serving as this year’s champion.”

Damewood, a second generation auctioneer, is a partner with Tillett & Damewood Auctioneers, auctioning real estate, equipment and personal property, and working both benefit auctions and several auto auctions throughout the Mid-Atlantic. He is a second-generation auctioneer.

“I’ve had the blessing to be able to learn from so many great auctioneers in this organization. My father, Craig Damewood, is a past state champion and to have my name listed next to his and other great bid-callers is quite an honor,” said Damewood.

The event grades auctioneers on chant, rhythm, presence and auction ability. Competitors are also graded on their industry knowledge. The chance to be named state champion has drawn “bid callers”, as they are known, from all over the state. “This year’s champion Brian Damewood epitomizes the strength of Virginia auctioneers and the strength of the Virginia auction industry,” said Shields Jones, VAA president. “He is charged with representing the VAA, our state and industry for the next year, and will do a great job.”

In Praise of Ice Cream ... and Five Years of Cool Deliciousness

— By Andrea Gaines

Driving by the corner of Main and 21st Streets in Purcellville on a hot summer evening, you’ll see people enjoying one of an American’s favorite pastimes ... losing themselves in a big’ol soft serve ice cream cone.

They are ardent fans of Gruto's Soft Serve, which will celebrate its 5th year anniversary on Sept. 27. Grutos owners Steve, Julie and Lisa Pologruto enjoy being part of the historic district of Purcellville. Being a mom and pop shop gives them a real sense of community —

something they believe is lost with big retailers.

“We love the fact that we get to interact with so many of our customers,” Steve says. “We might not know all of their names, but we know their favorite Gruto's treat!”

Julie also loves the excitement in the spring air in the weeks before they open each season. “Everywhere we go in town, people want to know when we’re opening for the season,” Julie said, “It kind of makes us feel like rock stars!”

On the Market ... with Sam Rees



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Loudoun County Sheriff's Office Launching Citizen's Police Academy

Loudoun County Sheriff Michael L. Chapman has announced the formation of the 31st Citizen's Police Academy. The academy – which will start on Wednesday, Sept. 12, 2012 – will offer training classes to the public designed to provide an overview of all aspects of law enforcement within the agency. The training classes will be taught by the Loudoun County Sheriff's Office of Personnel. Members of the class may also have the option of participating in a ride-a-long with a deputy after completing the academy. The free sessions will be held each Wednesday

evening from Sept. 12 through Nov. 28. Each session will be two-and-a-half hours in length and begin at 7 pm. Class locations will be announced prior to the upcoming session. The classes are open to Loudoun County residents over the age of 18. To enroll in the Citizen's Police Academy, please contact Becky Roll at the Loudoun County Sheriff's Office at (703)737-8520, during normal business hours of 9 am to 5 pm. Registration will be on a first-come, first-serve basis. Enrollment is limited to 30 participants.

Signs, continued from page 1

Public records show Kayhan did not have a permit for Cage Fighting signs – which were all over the Purcellville area and beyond – and only applied for the required permit after he filed his complaint with the Loudoun County Magistrate's office.

The case was initiated when Kayhan filed a complaint claiming that the couple entered his private property and removed signs advertising his cage fighting event. Kingsley and Nutt have consistently maintained that not only did they not take signs from his private property, they never entered his private property.

After many citizen complaints, in 2009

the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors instituted a volunteer-based sign removal program which in over the course of two years resulted in the removal of approximately 52,000 illegal signs from the public right of way. The newly-elected Board of Supervisors eliminated this program over concerns of "overzealous volunteers." The Board also argued that the signs were producing excess trash in county landfills. County staff now remove illegal signs following individual citizen complaints.

John Flannery, attorney for George Kingsley and Karen Nutt said, "In my opinion, this case should never have been brought."

Wild Loudoun

2012 Butterfly Count

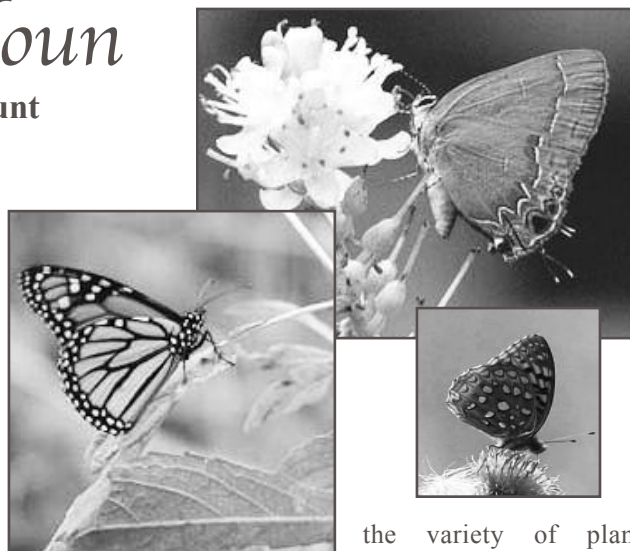
– By Andrea Gaines

There is something sweetly sublime about walking through a field counting butterflies. Some species will flutter around you as if you weren't there ... while others are quick to lift off to the next flower if you get too close.

The Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy holds a butterfly count every year, and this year's was held in early August. It is conducted by volunteers, but it is decidedly scientific.

The Loudoun County Annual Butterfly Count was started in 1997 under the stewardship of Bob Lyon, LWC's local butterfly and moth expert. Data from the count is provided to the North American Butterfly Association (NABA) which stewards this nationwide butterfly count each summer. The combined counts from all over the country are critically important to the future of these fragile creatures, showing trends and troublespots, and informing the success of the different conservation activities butterfly groups are engaged in.

Butterflies are good indicators of habitat and environmental health. They need a diversity of plant life to develop and thrive. As the LWC website notes: "Areas that are weedy and wild one year will show an abundance of species while a newly planted lawn or an area sprayed with pesticides will be a wasteland." For while a nice lawn of green grass looks good ... it is a monoculture and lacks



the variety of plant species, butterflies and

other insects need to survive.

Seventy people participated in Loudoun's Butterfly Count this year – you might have seen them prowling a farm or meadow, notebooks and binoculars and cameras in hand.

LWC reports that counting for this year's event seemed low at times but, in fact, 3,477 individual butterflies were spotted representing 51 separate species. This is roughly on par in both species diversity and numbers with last year's count.

LWC reports that some interesting things jumped out from this year's event:

- "Monarch butterflies were fortunately on par with last year. We were curious as to how they would fare this year. Last fall, the migrating population had to travel through more than 1,000 miles of dry land through the Midwest and Texas, and nectar plants were scarce. The population of Monarchs that reached the moun-

Continued on page 20



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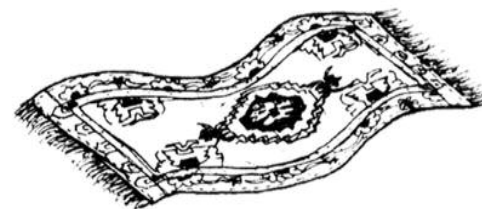
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Record Number of Small Business Awards Nominations

The Loudoun County Chamber has received a record 347 nominations for the 2012 Small Business Awards, an annual event that celebrates the achievements of small business, entrepreneurs and non profit organizations in Loudoun County.

The Chamber's Small Business Awards nomination process was open to the public, who were invited to nominate a deserving business or nonprofit organization worthy of being called Loudoun's finest.

"The Small Business Awards is Loudoun County's most prestigious honor that a local small business or non-profit can earn, and this record number of nominations is evidence of the remarkable level of enthusiasm in our

community for these Awards," Chamber President Tony Howard said.

The 347 nominated businesses are eligible to compete in ten categories, where their applications will be considered by a team of judges from the Chamber membership. After the four finalists in each category are announced on Sept. 28, the Chamber will invite the public to cast their ballots to help determine the winners in eight of the ten business categories.

The Awards most prestigious honors – The Small Business of the Year and The Entrepreneur of the Year – will be decided by a Blue Ribbon Panel of select Loudoun County business leaders.

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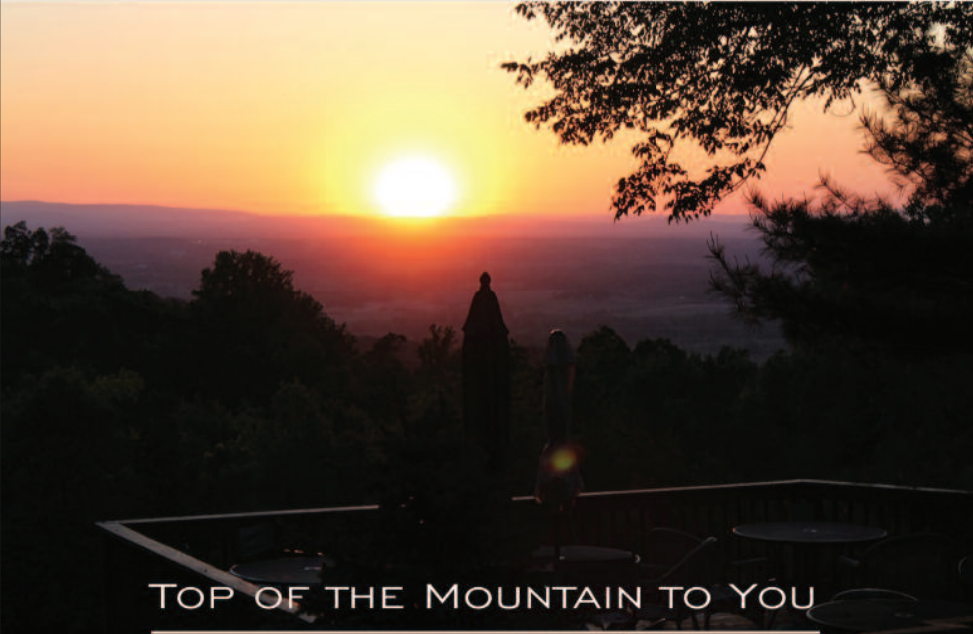
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Amy V. Smith's Money Talks

The "Fiscal Cliff"

— By Amy Smith



What is the "fiscal cliff"? It's the term being used by many to describe the unique combination of tax increases and spending cuts scheduled to go into effect on January 1,

2013. The ominous term reflects the belief by some that taken together, higher taxes and decreased spending at the levels prescribed have the potential to derail the economy. Whether we do indeed step off the cliff at the end of the year, and what exactly that will mean for the economy depends on several factors.

Will expiring tax breaks be extended?

With the "Bush tax cuts" set to sunset at the end of 2012, federal tax rates will jump up in 2013. We'll go from six federal tax brackets (10%, 15%, 25%, 28%, 33% and 35%) to five (15%, 28%, 31%, 36%, and 39.6%). The maximum rate that applies to long-term capital gains will generally increase from 15% to 20%.

Additionally, the temporary 2% reduction in the Social Security Portion of the Federal Insurance Contributions Act (FICA) payroll tax, in place for the last two years, also expires at the end of 2012. And lower alternative minimum tax (AMT) exemption amounts mean that there will be a dramatic increase in the number of individuals subject to AMT when they file their 2012 federal income tax returns in 2013.

Other breaks go away in 2013 as well ...

- Estate and gift tax provisions will change significantly. For example, the amount that can be excluded from estate and gift tax drops from 5.12 million in 2012 to \$1 million in 2013. The top tax rate increases from 35% to 55%.
- Itemized deductions and dependency exemptions will be phased out for individuals with high adjusted gross incomes (AGIs).

- The earned income tax credit, the child tax credit, and the American Opportunity (Hope) tax credit all revert to lower limits and less generous rules.

- Individuals will no longer be able to deduct student loan interest after the first 60 months of repayment.

Will new taxes take effect in 2013?:

Beginning in 2013, the hospital insurance (H) portion of the payroll tax—commonly referred to as the Medicare portion—increases by 0.9% for individuals with wages exceeding \$200,000 (\$250,000 for married couples filing a joint federal income tax return and \$125,000 for married individuals filing separately.)

Also beginning in 2013, a new 3.8% Medicare contribution tax is imposed on the unearned income of high-income individuals (see above.)

Both of these new taxes were created by the health-care reform legislation passed in 2010—recently upheld as constitutional by the U.S. Supreme Court—and it would seem unlikely that anything will prevent them from taking effect.

Will mandatory spending cuts be implemented?

The failure of the deficit reduction supercommittee to reach agreement back in November 2011 automatically triggered \$1.2 trillion in broad-based spending cuts over a multiyear period beginning in 2013 (the formal term for this is "automatic sequestration"). The cuts are to be split evenly between defense spending and non-defense spending. Although Social Security, Medicaid, and Medicare benefits are exempt, and cuts to Medicare provider payments cannot be more than 2%, most discretionary programs including education, transportation, and energy programs will be subject to the automatic cuts.

What's the worst case scenario?

Many fear that the combination of tax increases and spending cuts will have severe negative economic consequences. The Congressional Budget Office projects that under these fiscal conditions, the economy would

Continued on page 31

Letters to the Editor, continued from page 5

to overall health, with gum disease linked to premature birth, stroke and heart disease, so those visits to the dentist can also help prevent costly doctor visits in the future.

Good oral health practices should start from an early age, but according to a survey commissioned by Oral Health America, a national, non-profit organization, kids may not be getting that message as much as we think. Although 69 percent of parents surveyed said they remind their children on a daily basis to brush their teeth, only 34 percent of children surveyed recall getting daily reminders. While schools can help teach kids the importance of good oral health as well, not every student receives this information, especially as they get older. The survey showed that while 65 percent of elementary students learned about oral health care in

school, only 36 percent in middle school and 19 percent in high school students learned about oral health care.

Children learn best by example, which means that as adults, we need to take care of our teeth in addition to teaching children how to properly take care of their own. Oral health affects a child's ability to learn in school and can impact future employability. By making good oral health a family matter, we can maintain healthy smiles and avoid costly medical and dental bills at the same time. To learn more about Fall for Smiles and how you can help spread health smiles to your family and friends, visit www.oralhealthamerica.org/fallforsmiles.

— The Loudoun County Health Advisory Council

County Funds Available to Landowners Adopting Conservation Practices

Loudoun County has funds set aside for landowners who take specific conservation related actions on their farms. The funds are distributed through the Loudoun Soil and Water Conservation District (LSWCD). LSWCD is accepting applications/sign-ups for cost share for cover crops, grassland conversion, streamside fencing, water trough systems, as well as other "best management practices." The sign-up period for cover crops and grassland conversion practices

runs until Oct. 1. Sign-up for the streamside fencing and water system practices, as well as all other program practices, will be accepted throughout the year. For more information about the Virginia Agricultural Best Management Practices Program, including the current cost share rates, or to schedule a site visit for your farm contact, LSWCD at (571) 918-4530 or via their website: www.lswcd.org.

Farm Bureau News

State Fair Arts, Crafts and Crops Competition Deadline is Sept. 7

There's still time to enter the State Fair of Virginia's 2012 arts, crafts and crops competitions. The deadline for entries is Sept. 7.

This year's competitions will include fresh produce, pumpkins, honey, preserves, baked goods, sewing, needlework and photography. There also will be some new categories, like the State Fair Special Cookie Competition, which will allow children to enter with their parents, grandparents and guardians.

Links for forms and guidelines to enter adult and youth competitions can be found at StateFairVa.org/competitions.

New Guide Offers Forestland Management Information

A new guide has been published to help farmers and timber owners with limited resources to manage their land economically.

Profitable Farms and Woodlands: A Practical Guide in Agroforestry for Landowners, Farmers and Ranchers was written to assist smaller-scale farmers and woodland owners in the Southeast in adopting best management practices. The guide was prepared by an agroforestry team from land grant universities in collaboration with the U.S. Department of Agriculture National Agroforestry Center. Download the free 108-page publication at nac.unl.edu/profitable_farms.pdf.

City Status, continued from page 4

	Population July 2011	Fall 2011 Student Enroll- ment	FY 2012 Education Operating Budget	School Funding as a percentage of General Fund	FY 2012 Cost Per Pupil
Alexandria	144,301	11,999	\$219,706,856	30.8%	\$17,618
Falls Church	12,571	2,096	\$35,718,500	47.0%	\$16,309
Manassas City	39,300	6,979	\$83,339,163	49.2%	\$11,478
Manassas Park	15,332	2,998	\$29,764,228	44.7%	\$9,888
Purcellville	8,043	1,800	n/a	n/a	n/a
Loudoun Co.	301,171	63,220	\$743,004,526	58.2%	\$11,014
Fairfax City	22,549	3,022	\$46,346,667	40.6%	\$12,538

A third, Bedford City, is in the process. A Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service study on the moratorium suggests, "With local governments facing increased fiscal pressures, Virginia could see more city to town reversions."

For counties, Virginia law provides a number of strategic options. A county can fight the granting of city status or a proposed annexation in court. A county can negotiate a legal agreement with a town or city. A county can transform itself into a city as occurred in Hampton Roads. Existing towns within the new city remain independent towns; their ability to pursue city status disappears. Finally, a county can request total or partial immunity from annexation as six counties, including Prince William have done. Such immunity also effectively quashes a town's ability to seek city status.

Would Loudoun County pursue any of these options? Chairman Scott York responded through an aide that this was the first he had heard of the town's interest in pursuing city status and could not comment until he had done more research. Blue Ridge Supervisor Janet Clarke and her office did not

respond to emails.

If the General Assembly did lift the moratorium, the transition to city status is not automatic. The process first requires a referendum of Town voters. If the referendum is successful, Virginia Code allows any voter or property owner of the town or county, as well as any "other person affected by the proceeding," to become a party to the proceedings. A special three-judge court appointed by the Virginia Supreme Court oversees these proceedings.

Still, the question is moot unless the General Assembly lifts the moratorium. The consensus among those interviewed is they "will deal with it when they have to deal with it" but not before as the subject involves controversial issues that have lain conveniently dormant since 1987. "Not a chance," responded one General Assembly staffer. A co-author of the Weldon Cooper study predicted that, if pressured, the General Assembly might commission a study. "They do a lot of studies," he said.

Editor's Note: Full expanded article can be found at www.BRLeader.com.

An Interview With Congressman Frank Wolf

– By Tim Jon

Frank Wolf has served as 10th District Congressman since 1980; one of his first pieces of legislation went on to wrest control of the area airports – including Dulles – away from the Federal Government and under the current Authority. He's been a proponent of Dulles Rail, and has championed human rights causes around the globe. Frank's lesser-known talents include yo-yo skills and chili pepper gardening. I've interviewed Congressman Wolf dozens of times, but this is our first exchange in about five years.

Tim Jon: You've been on the Dulles Rail issue since the beginning. It's been a real saga: getting the funding, all the approvals, and the ongoing situation with the Metro Airports Authority as constructor. Loudoun obviously has mixed feelings about the whole thing; I guess I'm asking you to make sense of this thing for some of us at this time- (it used to be a pretty simple "train story").

Frank Wolf: Extending Metrorail out the Dulles corridor and into Loudoun County is (one of) the most important transportation projects in our region. Obviously there has been some controversy surrounding the project – much of self-induced by the board of the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority (MWAA) – but those issues are being addressed. Once the board returns to the way it operated for more than 20 years, I am confident the airports will continue to thrive, Dulles Rail will be completed suc-

cessfully, and the Dulles corridor will continue to be the economic engine of not only the National Capital Region, but the entire Commonwealth of Virginia. I remain committed to working to ensure that the rail project is completed on time and under budget, if possible, while also fighting to keep tolls on the Dulles Toll road affordable for people who used the road every day.

TJ: On the subject of MWAA, what about the role of Dulles Airport itself in the 21st Century Metro Washington transportation and economy sectors: is it where it should be today- and where's it headed- all things fiscally considered?

FW: Dulles Airport is celebrating its 50th Anniversary this year. I am proud of the role I played in transferring control of Dulles and then National airports to a regional authority. Today, Dulles and Reagan National are two of the busiest airports in the country. Dulles is the gateway to the world, and more important, the economic engine for our region. Companies have come to northern Virginia because of Dulles.

TJ: My employer- the US Postal Service is in big trouble; what should be done- if anything- to save it?

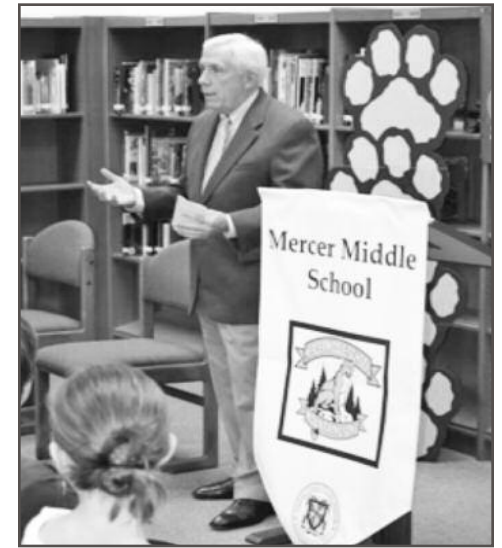
FW: I recognize something needs to be done about financial health of the U.S. Postal Service. That said, I do not support privatizing the postal service.

TJ: Without getting too much into potential political campaign territory here, how do you feel about the US' role in international

crises these days (our ongoing actions- or inactions- in the Middle East and Africa, for instance)?

FW: Sadly, America's influence in the world has waned as President Obama has famously opted to "lead from behind." During a time of historic transition in the Middle East and the birth of a new nation in Africa (South Sudan), our foreign policy has been rudderless and the world is a more dangerous place because of it. To make matters worse, time and again President Obama and the State Department have sidelined human rights and religious freedom in their dealings with foreign governments, even the most repressive in the world. Ronald Reagan often spoke of the U.S. Constitution as "a covenant we have made not only with ourselves, but with all of mankind." Against that backdrop he vigorously advocated for dissidents and embraced the aspirations of freedom-loving people the world over. In contrast, this administration has broken that covenant with countless people, be it the fearful Coptic Christian in Egypt, the desperate young monk in Tibet or the persecuted pastor in Vietnam.

TJ: Leesburg- the County Seat of Loudoun- is quite obviously no longer the 'small town' that it was when you first became elected to the 10th District; I know you don't like to pontificate on the actions of separate jurisdictions, but what are some of the things you see that they 'got right,' and perhaps some of the mistakes along the way?



FW: Loudoun has clearly changed since I was first elected to Congress. Population-wise it was the smallest part of the 10th Congressional District. Today, it is the largest. Loudoun is a great place to live, work and raise a family. I am in Loudoun all the time, whether it is in my official capacity, watching one of our grandkid's soccer games or picking something up at Nichols Hardware Store. Loudoun has never lost its sense of community, which is what makes it so special.

TJ: Thanks to you and your Staff for making this happen.

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Governor McDonnell Announces 250 New iGATE Jobs in Loudoun County

Gov. Bob McDonnell has announced that iGATE will invest over \$1 million to establish a new facility in Loudoun County. The company will perform a wide range of technology consulting services for government agencies and businesses and will offer design-build-operate-maintain services for federal government projects – creating 250 new jobs over the next two to three years.

Speaking about the project, Gov. McDonnell said, "iGATE's new operation in Loudoun County will expand the company's US presence in the Washington D.C. metropolitan market.

"We are very excited to open this new facility in Virginia," said Sean Narayanan, chief delivery officer, iGATE. "We have been impressed with the business and government the leaders in Virginia, the high caliber of the workforce, the excellent quality of life, and we look forward to positive, long-term

growth and involvement in this area."

The Virginia Economic Development Partnership worked with Loudoun County to secure the project for Virginia. Through its Virginia Jobs Investment Program, the Virginia Department of Business Assistance will provide funding and services to support the company's recruitment and training activities.

"Establishing this facility in Loudoun County, the home of the Washington Dulles International Airport, gives iGATE access to 80 percent of the world's economies – a key advantage to a global organization. In addition, with more than 900 federal government contractors located in Loudoun, and with almost 20 percent of the County's workforce employed by the information and communications technology industry, doing business in Loudoun makes perfect sense for a company like iGATE," said Loudoun County Board of Supervisors Chairman Scott K. York.

New Greek Life in an Old Theater

Tasos Vatikiotis, owner of Purcellville's My Deli & Cafe Greek Bistro has wrapped up renovations to transform his family's

Loudoun County-based carryout and catering business into a small sit-down bistro.

My Deli & Cafe Greek Bistro is in a former theater that was transformed into a 12,000-square-foot two-story shopping center and office building. The restaurant has been around since 2007. Vatikiotis' father, George, has been operating restaurants in the area since 1974. Now that George is retiring,

My Deli & Café
GREEK BISTRO

Tasos has stepped up to take a more active role.

"It's pretty cool what we've done here," he said. "Now we have 24

seats including our outdoor tables, and are doing a lot of events with the schools and sports teams."

With Greek and Mediterranean dishes on the menu, the restaurant aims to mimic the quick-style modern eateries of Greece, where the family also owned a restaurant, Vatikiotis said.

Patio Pleasures

Outdoor Dining Guide

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Lovettsville Awarded \$426,000 in Grant Funds for Bike Path Project

Work continues on the design and permitting of the Lovettsville Bike and Pedestrian trail to be located on the west side of Berlin Pike within the incorporated limits of Lovettsville. The trail has been a wish list item for the town since the 90's and finally with the newest award of \$426,000 in additional grant funds from the VDOT Enhancement Grants, Phase I of the Bike Path can move forward. Phase I will extend from the Town Center south to a point where the Heritage Highlands Subdivision plans to install

Bike Path along their frontage.

The Virginia Department of Transportation is administering the Bike Path project on behalf of the town. A public hearing following the requirements of the grant funding was held in April of 2012, fulfilling a major milestone for the project. Once the detailed design work is completed, the project will enter into the Easement Acquisition phase in the fall of 2012 with construction expecting to occur in 2014.

Good Shepherd Alliance, continued from page 7

and mentoring strengths to support student projects. The student group strives to reach the untapped potential of their 15,000 peers by getting them out and volunteering. Past Youth Advisory Group members have worked with clubs and student organizations at their schools to plan and execute awareness and fundraising projects. Broad Run High School held a GSA Bake Sale at their sold-out, televised high school basketball game. After matching donations, the group raised \$1000 and social awareness for the GSA. A "Heart for the Homeless" Music Fest was held at Founders Hall Ashburn Fire House. Four bands were featured and 70 high school students attended the successful event. Youth group members were also responsible for the creation and sale of a poetry book with poems about "home" writ-

ten by children, raising funds to go out and perform needed maintenance on a GSA shelter, and throwing a "Sleep-Out" in the Loudoun Valley High School gymnasium which raised \$5,000 and awareness about homelessness. The students who take part on the GSA board take away much from the experience including how to handle leadership and responsibility. They serve as an important connection between the board, their peers and the community, spreading the reality about homelessness while also mobilizing Loudoun's youth and showing them the importance and satisfaction of volunteering for a cause you care about.

To learn more about how your school or business can partner with the GSA Youth Advisory Group, contact Bob Ohneiser: ohneiser@verizon.net.



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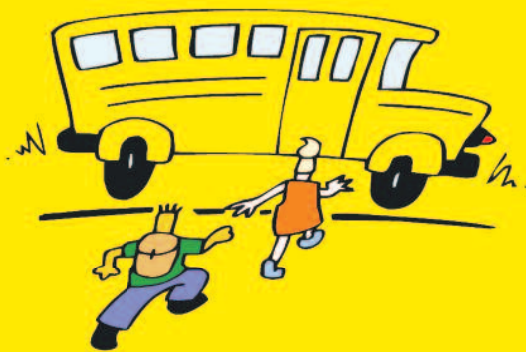
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Falling Forward for Butterflies and Bulbs

– By Donna Williamson

It's funny, but September always seems like the beginning of the year. Maybe it's a hangover from school days – a long time ago but impactful nevertheless.

The cooler weather and shorter days give me lots of energy. This year I am taking all the leaves that fall and putting them under shrubs and trees. Not only is this what Mother Nature does, but I tried it on a smaller scale this past year and the shrubs did very well avoiding the constant duel with the mower. More critically, the shrubs, damaged from last year's drought, were able to trap the rain that fell rather than having it run off of slick dry lawn.

I have another reason to put those leaves under my elderberries, hydrangeas, and dogwoods. Nicole Hamilton of Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy put together a wonderful small book with photos and info about local/Loudoun butterflies and notes several of them over-winter in leaves. Among them are the Painted Lady, Red Admiral, and Mourning Cloak. Why would I dump them into bags for the landfill!

So I'll pile up the leaves right after I get some of the plants I've collected this year into the shrub border. The *Cornus racemosa* (Gray dogwood) is doing very well as is the Texas native, *Cornus drummondii*. These shrub dogwoods host many critters and feed the birds with fat berries. They are easy to grow, fill in the border well, and help us share our landscapes. I'll add in the five goldenrod varieties and a native penstemon I



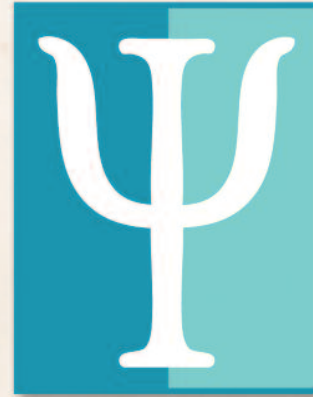
grew from seed this year as well as a beautiful chartreuse clematis I found in North Carolina.

Looking forward, I will be planting many minor bulbs. They are beautiful and inexpensive, a perfect combination! Anemones,

Continued on page 29

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PUGAMP, continued from page 1

proposed amendments or changes were adopted.

The School Board eventually selected Fields Farm as the site for the new high school (Woodgrove High School) and the Town filed some six lawsuits to prevent its construction. The town's central argument was that PUGAMP gave it veto power over the County's decision to build Woodgrove. The Virginia Supreme Court eventually ruled that the Town's interpretation was in error and that the County had the right to build Woodgrove.

Meanwhile, in the summer and fall of 2009, the town, believing that phasing as a concept had expired and that it had the power to unilaterally annex properties outside of Phase I,

adopted three ordinances annexing a portion of Brown's Farm, the O'Toole property east of town, and the remaining 67 acres of Patrick Henry College property. The annexations were to become official on Dec. 31, 2009.

The county disagreed with the town's interpretation and attempted to meet with the Town to discuss their differences but was ignored. Consequently, the county filed an injunction with the court in the last week of December 2009 to prevent the annexations from becoming official until the Court decided whose interpretation was correct. A key issue was whether or not the town had sufficient water and sewer capacity to meet the uses proposed for these properties.

This lawsuit was proceeding was through the judicial system and scheduled to be heard by a special three-judge court in early 2012.

When the newly-elected Board of Supervisors took office in January 2012, at the behest of the new Blue Ridge District Supervisor, Janet Clarke, it quickly signaled its desire to accommodate the town's wishes by dropping the phasing lawsuit and beginning the process to eliminate the Annexation Agreement and PUGAMP. The town has completed its process and the County will follow this fall. And so, PUGAMP will be a thing of the past.

With the elimination of PUGAMP and the Annexation Agreement, future expansion of the town will be governed by the same state

statutes that currently apply to each of the other existing Loudoun towns. The town and County must agree on any expansion plans and go through a public process. What will be missing is the protection that PUGAMP provided the town from an undesirable development pattern surrounding the town, one in which the town will have no voice in establishing.

Instead of formally annexing a parcel, which is a major government action, the town could simply follow state law for boundary line adjustments. According to the Virginia Code, "there are no provisions for intervention by other parties."

Zoning, continued from page 1

Decisionmaker	County Staff	Board of Supervisors
Public Hearing Required?	No	Yes
Decision Criteria	Predetermined set of performance standards	Negotiated through a 3-step process

The flexibility inherent in the decision criteria is at the heart of the Zoning Ordinance's inclusion of a special exception process. It recognizes certain uses may have a negative impact on neighbors and provides the Board of Supervisors with the opportunity to require the landowner to mitigate those impacts beyond the minimum standards imposed by the Zoning Ordinance. In an administrative process, staff must approve an application that meets or exceeds the performance standards found in

the Zoning Ordinance. In a legislative process the Board of Supervisors has the flexibility to customize requirements for unusual circumstances. Such mitigations include restrictions on outdoor lights, loudspeakers, or hours of operation, off-site road improvements, and additional trees to conceal the site from neighbors.

According to Howard-O'Brien, the process initiated by the Board in July will include a review of the history of county-imposed miti-

gation requirements. Where actual requirements show a pattern of exceeding existing standards, county staff might recommend that the Board change those standards. School staff could still propose, as they already do, additional enhancements.

The proposal still requires LCPS to request a Commission Permit from the county, which requires a formal public hearing. Howard-O'Brien noted that retaining this requirement preserves the public hearing requirement and moves the timing of the hearing to an earlier point in the process, allowing the community to provide input at the beginning of the process.

Both School Board Chairman Erik Hornberger and Howard-O'Brien pointed to the extensive community outreach and impact mitigation efforts for HS-8 (the high school planned for Lansdowne) that began during the sales contract due diligence period, long before the submission of materials for the land use application. Given the level of detail that has occurred in those efforts, Hornberger wondered what value a special exception process might now provide to the public.

The Aldie Fire House offers an alternative example. In this case, the Zoning Ordinance designated the facility a by-right use. Despite existing performance standards for such construction, numerous staff meetings with neighbors, and extensive efforts to accommodate their mitigation requests, the neighbors sued the county. Supervisor Janet Clarke (R-Blue Ridge) used the lack of a formal public hearing to convince her Board colleagues to restart the entire process.

Neither Clarke nor her office responded to questions regarding any contradiction between her opposition to the process used for the Aldie Fire House and her support for a policy that would generally apply that process to all public facility planning.

The amendments to streamline the process for commercial uses are based on the priority recommendations from a Stakeholders Group consisting of representatives from various business and real estate interests. The group was set up by county staff to facilitate the implementation of an initiative by Chairman Scott York (R-At-Large).

After extensive outreach efforts, County staff prepared a matrix of 260 issues derived from comments received from the Stakeholder

Group meetings and the general public. The Board's action would address approximately 150 of these.

At the request of the Stakeholder Group the Board set a goal of adopting as many of the amendments as possible (known as Package 1) by the end of 2012. A list of all 260 suggestions is posted on-line as an attachment to Item #7 for the June 19, 2012 Board Business Meeting.

The sheer number of proposed amendments and the technical language of zoning make any summary difficult. However there are a few stakeholder proposals that stand out, including reducing public notice to neighbors and shortening staff review times, reducing required plantings, increasing the number of allowable events at venues, and permitting monopolies by-right. The first three items are included in Package 1. The event item will be part of a

ZONING ORDINANCE STAKEHOLDER GROUP

- Loudoun County Chamber of Commerce
- Dulles Area Association of Realtors
- Dulles South Alliance
- Economic Development Commission
- Entitlement Process Volunteer Work Group
- Loudoun County Design Cabinet
- Northern Virginia Association of Industrial and Office Properties
- Northern Virginia Building Industry Association
- Loudoun County Planning Commission
- Loudoun County Rural Economic Development Council (REDC)

later package; the monopoly item will be considered sometime after the Board's appointment of a Zoning Ordinance Authority Group.

According to staff, the Board's decision to move forward with the compressed schedule for Package 1 items may limit opportunities for public outreach beyond the traditional public hearing process required by law. Staff are currently working on draft language with a completion goal of mid-October. A Planning Commission public hearing is planned for October 24, 2012.

Editor's Note: An expanded version of this article can be found at www.BRleader.com.

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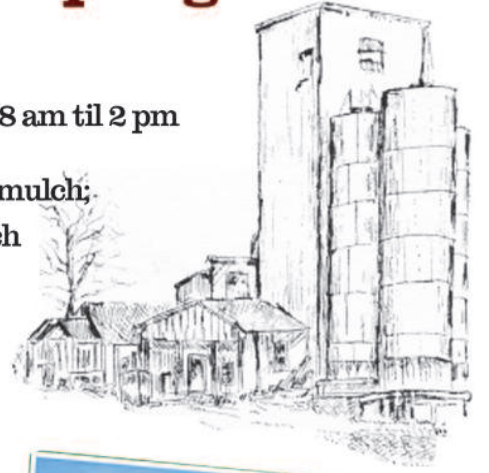
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► REAL ESTATE TICKER ► HOUSING: THE "UP" SIDE OF THIS "DOWN" MARKET

— By Carl Fischer



In the past two months, the housing market has seen a traditional reduction in residential sales activity through the heat of the summer. In the summer months, many families have more pressing demands on their time, be it for vacations, travel, or simply family get-togethers both near and far.

During this period, the national press continues to document the case for a very slow,

erratic recovery in both house prices and consumer confidence. And these facts are hard to ignore. But there's one aspect to what has happened in the past five years that seems to escape the focus of the press: How about the incredible opportunities this down market has presented to those who can take advantage of the 'now'?

For those owners who are buried, or upside down in their present ownership situation, and who agonize daily about their loss of equity as house prices have continued to erode, it feels like there's very little to be done but just wait this recovery out.

Isn't that right? But consider this. One of the most powerful philosophies I have acquired in my personal life (many years ago) is this adage: If you can't solve a problem, change the problem to one you can solve.

If you can't qualify now to refinance your present mortgage because your equity in the property won't support the ratios, what can you do?

Some clients, realizing how much they are losing every month, not only in their equity position, but more importantly, through their interest payments on their

existing mortgages, have chosen to sell the property short, or renegotiate their loan, often agreeing to sign an unsecured personal note with the bank for the deficit, just so they can move on with their lives.

Many of these folks turn right around and buy another home at a lower face amount, and enjoy these historic, all-time low, interest rates for the remainder of their new loan, saving a ton of money over the life of the loan.

For those who can qualify, today's down market provides a double-barreled opportunity.

Continued on page 29

Butterflies, continued from page 10

tains of Mexico was the smallest ever recorded and they were skinny – unable to put on the fat they typically would from nectaring along their migration.

- *“Cloudless Sulphurs were on the rise with five out of eight teams reporting sighting. This is a species that we may see every few years and only by 1 or 2 teams so it was exciting for it to be more widespread this year.”*
- *“Eastern Tailed Blues (403 compared to a previous high of 242), Tawny-edged Skippers (194 compared to a previous high of 66) and Variegated Fritillaries (216 compared to a previous high of 110) were standouts with the highest numbers ever seen on the count.” (Summary data from all 16 years of LWC's count is available on their website.)*

■ *“Lower numbers were seen for the Common Buckeye. This is a butterfly that in the last two years seemed to have a population explosion and we saw them everywhere. This year things had wound back down.”*

■ *“We had an old record for an Aphorodite Fritillary but having not seen one in Loudoun for the entire time that we've conducted the count, we thought that perhaps the species was no longer in our area. But there it was and with a photo to document it!”*

You don't need to have a lot of knowledge about butterflies to participate in LWC's annual Butterfly Count ... just a desire to enjoy their beauty and assist with conservation efforts. For more information go to www.loudounwildlife.org.

Mosby Heritage Area Association Receives \$41,625 Grant

The Mosby Heritage Area Association, the northern Va. Piedmont preservation and education organization, has received a grant of \$41,625 from the National Park Service's American Battlefield Protection Program (ABPP) to fund a community-based preservation plan for the Civil War Cavalry Battles of Aldie, Middleburg, and Upperville.

The preservation plan will focus on the three cavalry battles at Aldie, Middleburg, and Upperville, where Confederate General J.E.B. Stuart fought a delaying tactic in June 1863 to screen the northern movement of General Robert E. Lee into Pennsylvania prior to the Battle of Gettysburg.

“We are proud to support projects like this that safeguard and preserve American battle-

fields,” said Jon Jarvis, Director of the National Park Service. “These places are symbols of individual sacrifice and national heritage that we must protect so that this and future generations can understand the struggles that define us as a nation.”

The grant is one of 27 National Park Service grants totaling \$1.35 million to preserve and protect significant battle sites of all wars fought on American soil. Funded projects preserve battlefields from the Colonial-Indian Wars through World War II, and include site mapping (GPS/GIS data collection), archeological studies, National Register of Historic Places nominations, and preservation and management plans. For more information, visit www.mosbyheritagearea.org.

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Hunt Country Gourmet's RESTAURANT REVIEW

"Our goal is to tell you where good food can be found ..."

Anthony's, Purcellville

— By George E. Humphries

Anthony's, the little restaurant on the south side of West Main Street as you leave Purcellville, is a good place to go if you are looking for a tasty and fulfilling Italian Mediterranean meal. From pizza to parmigiana, stromboli to scampi, the menu offers something for everyone and items are reasonably priced to make it possible to bring in the whole family for just a snack or a comfortable neighborhood meal out.

Proprietor Anthony seems to be the very essence of a proper neighborhood restaurateur, welcoming and friendly but with a constant eye on the efficiency of the operation. Formerly in partnership with another eatery proprietor, Anthony left the collaborative relationship to open his own establishment in Purcellville four years ago in an existing space just past Silcott Springs Road (Route 690). Several months ago he greatly expanded and upgraded the look of the building with the addition of a large front patio covered by a tailored awning featuring the restaurant logo.

The menu is impressive in extent. Anthony's offers almost 20 entrees. At our most recent visit, my companion ordered eggplant parmigiana with spaghetti and meat sauce (\$11). Unlike so many Italian restaurants we have visited, the eggplant was not overcooked or dripping with oil, nor was the dish over-seasoned with garlic. She pronounced it to be delicious. My choice was fettuccini Alfredo with meatballs (\$12), also deftly seasoned

and prepared with fresh ingredients.

Other notable entrees include veal or chicken Marsala, lasagna, salmon penne, fried fish and fries, and tortellini, and cheese or meat ravioli. All entrees are accompanied by garlic bread and a garden salad.

There are soups variable each day, and a choice of eight dinner salads including Greek, Caesar, Insalada Caprese, Grilled Chicken Walnut, and Antipasto, none costing more than \$9.

For those who want to stop for a snack and a drink, there are plenty of appetizers from which to choose — from fried jalapenos, calamari fritti, bruschetta, falafel, to a Mediterranean sampler with hummus, falafel, grape leaves, baba ganoush, and salad. Four flavors of wings are served with celery sticks and blue cheese dressing.

Pizza, stromboli, and calzone lovers will find plenty to choose from, with a selection of nine pizzas and six strombolis or calzones. But these can be multiplied into an almost infinite variety with the many selections of toppings and sauces. Anthony's also offers eight hot subs and seven cold subs. Small subs are \$5.50, and large subs \$8.

We haven't begun to test Anthony's menu, but given our initial impressions, we'll be going back often, not to review, but to enjoy.

George Humphries is a retired Navy aviator who began cooking at the age of 10 and has managed several large restaurants. He has lived in Loudoun Country since 1984.

Sushi ... "Tails" From the Barnyard

Back to School Kindness

Now ... you all must remember ... Fields of Athenry's Sammy the Bull and Miss Ashley, the lady cow with the big baby brown eyes and long eye lashes that just drove Sammy the Bull crazy in love? This past year they had a baby bull boy, little Sammy Junior, the spitting image of his mother. Beautiful Angus bull calf, just one thing wrong though, when little Sammy Junior went to call his mama or papa, his "moo" would start with a sta sta sta stutter!

Wow, you just have no idea how on a farm, when born into a herd of cattle, how tough it can be with other little bull boys if you have a sta sta sta stutter in your moo. I noticed how little Sammy started to hang his head in shame as the other young bull boys would snicker and moo at him. He began to stay all to himself. And, he never swished his tail or romped with glee anymore. He seemed very lonely.

Well, I had work to do and trotted off down toward the barn yard. I kept thinking there must be a way to lift poor little Sammy's spirits. I hated seeing him so rejected and all alone. In the moment, I turned the corner toward the "Quackery" when I almost ran into Ol' Gnarly Gander, the Chinese Goose. You can't miss Ol' Gnarly; he is the big white guy with a huge orange knot on his big honker. It dawned on me that with a big nose knot like that Gnarly might have been teased a little as a young lad. Maybe Gnarly might know how to cheer up little Sammy Junior and help him to see his own self-worth?

"Hey Gnarly," I said, "Have you noticed Little Sammy Junior, the Black Angus boy with the sta sta sta stutter in his moo? I was thinking Gnarly, not to hurt your feelings, but, maybe because of that big honker of a nose you have, well, maybe you were teased when you were growing up? How did you handle it?"

"Sushi, my man," said Gnarly, "I was teased. I know I have a big nose, and now I just laugh about it. But, when I was a little kid, it really hurt. I felt like an outcast. I wasn't cool."

"How did you get through it, Gnarly?," I said. "I mean, I don't mean to pry, but how did you ever feel wanted?"

"Sushi," said Gnarly, "I had one ornery old barn cat reach out to me one day ..."

My ears perked up, my mind whirling inside (Could Gnarly possibly be talking about Hokie; the cat that got me into so much trouble during the blessing of the farm by Father Jimmy so many years ago?) I listened intently not to miss one word Gnarly Gander had to say.

"Sushi," said Gnarly, "I was in the 'Quackery Pond' in a really miserable state, feeling sorry for my ugly self. I wasn't Brad Paisley or Toby Keith, if you know what I mean. I had my head under water with my tail feathers up. I guess I had been that way for a long time. I figured, if I kept my head under water no one would notice my big honker. But, Hokie the cat had been watching me for some time and decided to swat his paw and give my tail feathers a hard solid grab. I flipped up out of the water and honked, honked, and honked in a terrible fright. I was sure my life was over — that the Sly One, the fox, had come up behind me and I would soon would be his dinner. I realized I didn't want to die. Certainly not to be eaten, feathers and all, by that dirty red foxy fellow!"

"But ... when I saw it was that ornery barn cat Hokie, I shook my tail feathers and started to walk away, dejectedly thinking that here is another one of my supposed barn fellows ready to make fun of me."

"Then, just as my thoughts turned sour, Hokie cat growled at me and said, 'Hey bud, 'ya want to join me in some good old fashion barn fun?' And, with that he licked his cat whiskers and had such a mischievous grin on his face I had to believe he wanted to be my friend. So, I followed. I needed to follow, and thank God I did because at that low point I was so ready to drown myself in sorrow. You see,



Continued on page 28

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Sharing a Word — By Sally York & Myles Mellor

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Across

1. Occurred
4. Acropolis figure
10. Cancels
14. Cast
15. Longs for
16. Barbershop call
17. Mine find
18. Cautionary item
19. Passionate about
20. Redo happily?
23. Pinnacle opposite
24. With a steady hand
25. Moose or mice, e.g.
28. Unconscious
30. Broadcasted
31. Hindu garment
32. "Not to mention ..."
36. Improve a server?
39. Pendulum paths
40. Alternative to acrylics
41. Chip away at
42. Additions
43. Talking points?
44. Rounded style of writing
48. Fall mo.
49. Disloyal cover-up?

Down

1. Pronoun in a Hemingway title
2. Halo, e.g.
3. Hunt for
4. Award
5. Go places
6. Any port in a storm
7. By any chance
8. "Cool!"
9. Weakness
10. Cartoon art
11. Arc lamp gas
12. Glorify
13. Expressionless
21. Exit
22. Actress Plumb
25. Medic or normal?
26. Pinocchio, at times
27. ___ acid
28. Highlanders, e.g.
29. Eyes, poetically
31. Level
32. Religious nectar
33. Golden Triangle country
34. Fries, maybe
35. Horace volume
37. City on the River Garonne
38. Turn up again
42. Amniotic ___
43. Scratch up
44. Absolute
45. Care for
46. Colgate rival
47. Signed
48. Undersides
50. Maintain
51. Charlie, for one
52. Data
53. Indian bread
54. Apprentice

Answers on page 28

Committees at a Glance, continued from page 5

unanimous in their support for the first three recommendations: that the department should not report to the Board of Supervisors, that it needs to remain visible and a budget priority, and that locating it in the Commissioner of Revenue's office would not only address the first two recommendations but create at least some small cost savings.

Given the answers provided by or elicited from a panel of experts at the commission's July meeting, this recommendation was not surprising. The panel consisted of the County Treasurer, the Commissioner of Revenue, the Acting Chief Financial Officer, the interim Assessor; a solid majority came down in favor of including it.

The final item on the commission's agenda was a request from Purcellville Mayor Bob Lazaro. Mayor Lazaro had asked Commission Chair Tom Julia if he and the other mayors might come in and speak to the commission or the relevant subcommittee regarding the Fire & Rescue and Loudoun Water topics. This request was not positively received. "I think we've got enough on our plate without inviting all the mayors," one member commented. "Couldn't they just submit something in writing?" asked another. Recognizing that it made "good, eminent sense to invite comment before we vote on anything," Julia suggested that a phone call be made to the mayor to discuss a means of receiving the mayors' comments.



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Watermelon Park Fest Starts September 20!

Shepherds Ford Productions will host its 9th annual, three-day Americana Roots Music Festival alongside the Shenandoah River in Berryville, VA featuring ...

Great Music
The Del McCoury Band, Tim O'Brien, Bruce Molsky, Larry Keel & Natural Bridge, Furnace Mountain, Two Man Gentleman Band, Elizabeth LaPrelle, Cahalen Morrison & Eli West, Free State Ramblers, The Whiskey Rebellion, The Woodshedders, The Hot Seats, Lonesome Highway, Dirty Bourbon River Show, Acoustic Burgoo, The Spruce Brothers, Banana Express, The Polka Dots, Jake & the Burtones, Fiddlin' Dave & Morgan, and more!

Contests
The Mandolin Pickin' contest offers the chance to win a Weber Mandolin (valued at over \$4,000); the Fairbuilt Guitar Pickin' contest offers cash and other prizes; and, then there's the \$1,000 Band Contest to pick the area's best new band.

Workshops and Dances
Learn Southern Old Time Fiddlin', Partner Dancing, Hooping, Flat Footing, Clogging, traditional tunes and more ...

Kids Activities & More
Lots of fun workshops for kids, too, including the much anticipated Watermelon Boat Build & Float. There will be good food vendors featuring vegetarian and healthy options, crafters, camping and lots of music jams ...

Admission is FREE for kids 12 and under!
Visit www.watermelonparkfest.com or call 540.955.1621 for information and sales.

Illustration by Jill Evans Kavaljian

Arts & Galleries

Arts in the Village Gallery grand opening, Friday, Sept. 21

Saturday, Sept. 22 will be the grand opening day featuring the mayor of Leesburg doing a ribbon cutting ceremony at noon, artist demos, live music, beverages and appetizers, family events, and more.

Demonstrations will continue on Sunday, Sept. 23. All artists will be on hand. All artwork is local and available for purchase. For more information go to www.artsinthevillage.com or call 703-862-5063. Arts in the Village Gallery is located at 1601 Village Market Blvd. Suite #11, Leesburg, VA 20175.

Byrne Gallery "Art Goes Here" special exhibition of paintings, mixed media and sculpture, Saturday, Sept. 8

Work is by Stephen Saff, architect, artist and furniture designer. The show opens on Sept. 7, and there will be a reception for the artist on Saturday, Sept. 8 from 5 pm to 8 pm. This reception is free and everyone is cordially invited to attend. The paintings will be on display through Sept. 30.

Byrne Gallery: 7 West Washington Street in Middleburg, Virginia. Gallery hours, Monday & Tuesday by appointment only, Wednesday through Saturday 11 am to 5 pm, and Sunday noon to 5 p.m. (540) 687-6986.

"Art on Exhibit" at Loudoun County Public Libraries! ... Sept. 1 through Oct. 31

Art on Exhibit features the work of local artists at five Loudoun County public libraries. Exhibits are on view for a two-month period with some pieces available for purchase. All exhibits are open during regular business hours. See a full list of libraries participating in the exhibit on page 25.

Sketch Club Artists Paint the Park, Franklin Park Arts Center, Sept. 7 – Nov. 4

Loudoun Sketch Club artists will celebrate the opening of Franklin Park Art Center's 5th season with a special exhibit of paintings showcasing the park in many different styles – and from many different points of view. Exhibit dates are Sept. 7 – Nov. 4, 2012.

Participating artists include Vivian Attermeyer, Mary Champion, Elly Friedman, Lori Goll, Pauline Lorfano, Rose McIntyre, Alice Power, Pam Swann, Edith Symes, Harold Symes, Wilson Webb, Betty Wiley and Jessica Wilson. For more information about the Loudoun Sketch Club, visit loudounsketchclub.com. For information, visit franklinparkartscenter.org

Fairs & Music

The 43rd Annual Bluemont Fair, Saturday & Sunday, Sept. 15 & 16

Old fashioned family fun at a "green" country fair featuring traditional crafts, local art and authors, craft and farming demonstrations, music: traditional, blues and country, 10k race, free children's fair, farm animals, llamas and alpacas, quilt display, colonial blacksmith, homemade food, fresh and dried flowers, pie-baking/pickle-making contest, antiques and collectables, local wine-tasting and gourmet treats, historic slide show, bee-keepers and hives, model railroad display and antique caboose, pre-Civil War country store, farmer's market, and more. General Admission, adults \$5; children under ten, free. Call (540) 554.2367, or go to www.bluemontfair.com for more info.

9th Annual Watermelon Park Fest, Saturday, Sept. 20 – 22

Shepherds Ford Productions hosts its ninth annual, three-day Americana Roots Music Festival – Watermelon Park Fest. This year the event features: The Del McCoury Band, Tim O'Brien, Larry Keel, Furnace Mountain, over 20 additional bands, contests, workshops, camping, dances, food and craft vendors, kids activities and more. Family-friendly event is located at Watermelon Park, 3322 Lockes Mill Rd., Berryville, Virginia 22611 alongside the Shenandoah River just 45 minutes from DC. Early Bird Thurs. – Sun. tickets are \$60 through Aug. 31, \$80 after Aug. 31. One-day tickets available at the gate: \$50-\$60 per day. Kids 12 and under free. Information and ticket sales at www.watermelonparkfest.com. Telephone: (540) 955-1621. Full schedule online at www.BRLeader.com.

The Loudoun Symphony Presents a War of 1812 Bicentennial Concert at Leesburg's Ida Lee Park, Sunday, Sept. 23

The Loudoun Symphony, together with the Journey Through Hallowed Ground Partnership, Visit Loudoun and the Town of Leesburg, will present "1812: An American Celebration." Billed as the largest War of 1812 Bicentennial celebration in the greater Washington DC region, the festival is held at Leesburg's Ida Lee Park. Advance general admission tickets \$20. Children under twelve, free. Visit www.1812Concert.org for more information.

The 69th Annual Waterford Fair, Friday through Sunday, Oct. 5, 6 & 7

Virginia's oldest juried crafts fair marks

Giddy Up and Go!!!!



its sixty-ninth anniversary this year when the annual Waterford Homes Tour & Crafts Exhibit returns to Loudoun County. The weekend will feature 155 artisans demonstrating a variety of traditional craftsmanship. A tour of the village will offer guests a look into preserved homes and buildings and a walk through Civil War history.

Tickets at the gate are \$17 per person per day, children 12 and under are free. Advance tickets are \$15 per person per day (order online Aug. 13-Sept. 22). Advance tickets at ticket outlets may be purchased through Oct. 4. Check web site for details/a list of outlets – www.waterfordva.org.

Equestrian Events

58th Annual Running of the Virginia Fall Races, Saturday & Sunday, Oct. 6 & 7 ... Benefits INOVA Hospital & The Glenwood Park Trust

Come for great outdoor family fun and the 58rd running of the Virginia Fall Races – Glenwood Park, Middleburg, Virginia, Oct. 6 & 7. Saturday highlights include the running of the Chronicle Cup timber classic and the Daniel C. Sands hurdle race. Saturday there will be a Family Fun Fair with petting zoo, pony rides and more. Full card of racing on Sunday ... spectators will get a taste of fox hunting with the finals of the Field Hunter Championships of America being held right on the race course at 12 noon.

Gates open both days at 11 am; post time, 1:30 pm. Tickets, box seats, rail side and tailgate picnic parking spaces can be purchased in advance – call (540) 687-5662 or by fax (540) 687-5611. General Admission, \$30.00 per car (4 people max.). Glenwood is just north of the village of Middleburg on Route 626, Foxcroft Road.

International Gold Cup Race, Saturday, Oct. 20

The 2012 International Gold Cup marks the 75th running of this prestigious race and maintains international interest both in the spectator venues as well as on course. This

event will provide a full day of entertainment including six nationally sanctioned horse races, terrier races, and tailgate contest. A ceremony honoring past and present Olympic equestrians will also take place during the day. Great Meadows is located at 5089 Old Tavern Road, The Plains, VA 20198-2552. General admission car passes are \$55 in advance (passes also available for purchase on race day). For ticket information call 540-347-1215 or order online at www.vagoldcup.com. Children 12 years of age and under are admitted free with an adult.

Other Fun Stuff!

4th Annual "Dog Swim" at A.V. Symington Aquatic Center, Saturday, Sept. 8.

Leesburg Dogs, Inc. will host the fourth annual Dog Swim at the A.V. Symington Aquatic Center in Leesburg's Ida Lee Park. The event will take place from 9 am to 12 noon. Admission is \$5.00 per dog, with a limit of two dogs per handler.

Each year, between 800 and 1,000 dogs attend the Dog Swim.

Proceeds from the admission fees, as well as sales of bottled water and T-shirts, are used to benefit the Leesburg Dog Park at Olde Izaak Walton Park. For more information about the Leesburg Dog Park or the Dog Swim, please call 703-777-1368. (Children under 8 years of age will not be allowed at the Dog Swim ... thank you.)



First Friday in Purcellville starts Sept. 7th!

First Friday is coming to Purcellville!

Purcellville is starting their own First Friday event on Sept. 7 from 6 to 9 p.m.

The family friendly event includes businesses in many parts of town. Everything from wine tastings to carriage rides will be offered.

"Busy families seldom have time to stop and discover the charm of Purcellville, with soccer games and music lessons, and now adding to the stack, homework," said Mary Beth Barbagallo, co-owner of Above Ground Winery.

"You would be surprised by how many residents don't know these businesses exist or what they do. They eye opener was

attending a recent meeting held by the town, the members of that committee didn't know some of these businesses exist. This will give the public the opportunity to meet the business owner and enjoy music, art and wine for three hours a month," Barbagallo said.

Participating businesses will feature hors d'oeuvres, wine, art or music. Some will offer more than one treat. There will be several wineries exhibiting their craft along with live music in three locations. The unique opportunity will be the horse drawn carriage rides that travel the length of the event on Main Street. The First Friday event will continue through December.

Participating businesses, 21 Street:

- Piper Dan's Celtic Shoppe – Irish baked goods and refreshments.
- Boodacades – Live music with Chris Bowen.
- Butterfly Gourmet – Wine tasting with Otium Cellars and hors d'oeuvres.
- Shave and a Haircut – Live music by James Fedick and wine by Notaviva Vineyards.
- ReLove-It – With wine by 8 Chains North.
- Shamrock Music – Live music/wine by The Barns at Hamilton Station.
- Sarah Huntington photography exhibit.

Participating businesses, Hatcher Ave.:

- Christian Shoppe/Heart's Delight – appetizers and local artist Catherine Fetterman.

Participating businesses on Main Street

- Gruto's Ice Cream.
- Above Ground Winery – Wine, live Music by Annie Stokes and sidewalk chalk for the kids.
- My Deli and Café/Endless Summer Tan – free appetizers
- Everyday Elegance
- Twigs

Special Event

Shenandoah Carriage Company – horse drawn carriage rides on Main Street!

More online at www.brleader.com



2012-2013 Season Opening Weekend!!



Last Ham Standing

Friday September 21 ~ 8 PM

\$12 Adults; \$10 Student; \$5 Child

Don't miss this hilarious show full of laughs for the entire family. A group of talented performers take suggestions from the audience to create wacky scenes and funny improv games. If you like Whose Line Is It Anyway?, you'll love Last Ham Standing, the other comedy meat!

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American Shakespeare Center: Twelfth Night

Saturday September 22 ~ 2 PM

\$15 Adults - \$12 Stu./Sen.

The American Shakespeare Center's Touring Company will present "Twelfth Night". Writing at the height of his powers, Shakespeare provides a feast of language and songs, and a stage full of memorable characters. From the lovesick Orsino and Viola to the alesick Toby Belch, from the acquiescent Sir Andrew Aguecheek to the pompous Malvolio.

Tickets available for purchase online at franklinparkartscenter.org



Buncearoo Presents: "The 9"

Saturday September 22 ~ 7 PM

\$12 In Advance

Founded in 2008 by singer/songwriter Justin Trawick, "The 9 Songwriter Series" is a touring live music event. The show was created with the idea of nine artists getting together and combining their talents in order to play in nicer clubs and to larger amounts of people. Each installment features nine solo singer/songwriters performing in rotation and often sitting in with each other, providing audiences with a rich, intimate, varied listening experience. Over 60 different artists have participated in "The 9".

Reserve by going to www.buncearoo.com



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2012-2013 Show Sponsors

September

For a complete listing, please visit our Events Calendar on our website: www.brleader.com. To see your community event here, please send us an email to: advertise@brleader.com.

☉ **Saturday, August 4, 10 am to 4 p.m., Mt. Pleasant Annual Church Picnic, Public invited!** Taylorstown, VA. .

☉ **Thursday, Sept. 6, free garden lecture at 7 p.m. at Rust Library**, 380 Old Waterford Road, N.W., Leesburg in the large meeting room. Lecture by John Dahlberg, a Loudoun County farmer about "Understanding Mushrooms." He will discuss identification techniques, tips and tricks for finding the best local mushrooms and a primer for growing your own edible mushrooms.

☉ **Saturday Sept. 8, dog swim at A.V. Symington Aquatic Center.** The fourth annual swim will be from 9 a.m. to noon. Admission is \$5 per dog, with a limit of two dogs per handler. Children under 8 years of age will not be allowed at the dog swim. For more information call 703-777-1368.

☉ **Saturday, Sept. 8, Writers' Conference at Cascades Library**, 21030 Whitfield Place, Potomac Falls. 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. For adults, teens and seniors. The conference is free and open to the general public. For more information call 703-444-3228 or go to the Loudoun County Public Library website <http://library.loudoun.gov>.

☉ **Thursday, Sept. 13 "Images of Summer" Art Display in Hamilton.** An exhibit of original paintings by artist Donna Robinson will be on display at Prudential Carruthers Real Estate in Hamilton September 10 – November 30. The public is invited to attend an Opening Reception for the artist on Thursday, September 13 from 5 – 7 p.m. Prudential Carruthers is located at 4 East Colonial Highway in Hamilton.

☉ **Sept. 13-16, the 150th anniversary of the Civil War Battle of Harpers Ferry at Harpers Ferry National Historical Park.** The battle will be commemorated with special tours, speakers, exhibits, children's events, living history, music, and more. The park opens at 8 a.m. daily. Visit the park Web site at www.nps.gov/hafe.

☉ **Saturday, Sept. 15, The James Boys performing at The Game Club**, 16 S. Berlin Pike, Lovettsville. 8 p.m. to midnight. \$17 per couple and \$9 per single

☉ **Saturday, Sept. 15, Fall Native Plant Sale, Rust Nature Sanctuary**, 802 Children's Center Rd. Leesburg. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Nature By Design and Hill House Farm and Nursery will have a large selection of locally native plants for sale. Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy will have a table focusing on butterflies and gardening for wildlife.

☉ **Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 15 and 16, 43rd annual Bluemont Fair, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. rain or shine.** Rt. 734-Snickersville Turnpike, off Rt. 7. \$5/adults and under 10/free. Featuring traditional crafts (juried), local art and authors, craft and farming demonstrations, music, 10k race, free Children's Fair, farm animals and more. Go to www.bluemontfair.com or call 540.554.2367.

☉ **Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 15-16, Oatlands Civil War on the Home Front Tours at Oatlands Plantation**, 20850 Oatlands Plantation Lane Leesburg. Sept. 15 at 11:00 a.m. and 1 p.m. and Sept. 16 at 1:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. Tours are \$15 for adults, \$12 for seniors and \$10 for children 6-16 years of age. Call 703-777-3174 for additional information.

☉ **Saturday Sept. 22, 13th annual Apple Butter Celebration at Skyland Resort**, mile 41.7 on Skyline Drive Shenandoah National Park. 9:45 a.m. – 5 p.m. The event will include entertainment, wine tasting, pony rides, children's crafts and kettle-fresh apple butter to take home. Go to www.visitshenandoah.com for more information.

☉ **Sept. 22, 20th annual Dulles Day Family Festival and Plane Pull**, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Dulles International Airport. The event benefits Special Olympics Virginia. For more information, to register your team, sign up to exhibit or volunteer, or for sponsorship details, visit www.planepull.com

Thursday, Sept. 27, Conversations in History Series, 7 p.m. at Mount Zion Church, 40309 John Mosby Highway, Aldie, Va. Dr. Jim Hershman of Georgetown University will speak on "Two Localities, Two Different Experiences: Virginians Tackle Civil Rights, 1961-64." \$5 for adults, \$2 for students. Call 540-687-6681 or email info@mosbyheritagearea.org for more information.

☉ **Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 29 and 30, 8th annual Autumn Apple Festival at The Heritage Farm Museum**, located off Route 28 and Route 7 in Claude Moore Park, Sterling, Virginia. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Festival free with paid museum admission, adults \$5, seniors \$4, children 2-12 \$3 and children under 2 are free. Go to www.heritagefarmmuseum.org for more information.

☉ **Friday Oct. 5 through Sunday Oct. 7, Waterford Homes Tour and Crafts Exhibit.** Tour the village of Waterford and enjoy a crafts fair. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. \$15 per person, per day in advance, \$17 per person per day at gate. Children 12 and under are free. Visit www.Waterfordfoundation.org for more information.

Encouraging Loudoun to Read

Loudoun County Public Library's county-wide reading and discussion program, "**Book Community**," begins Tuesday, Sept. 4 featuring "When the Emperor was Divine" by Julie Otsuka. The annual program encourages community members to come together to read and discuss the same book.

Free copies of "When the Emperor was Divine" will be available at all library branches beginning Sept. 4, and book discussions and other accompanying programs are scheduled at all branches through Oct. 24. The author presentation and book signing will take place at 7 p.m., Oct. 3 at Cascades Library in Potomac Falls. The program is free and open to the public; no reservations required. "When the Emperor was Divine" dramatizes the internment of Japanese and Japanese Americans during World War II, and tells what it might have been like to be among the detained in America. "Growing up in my family, there was so much silence about what happened during WWII. I remember by mother telling me that when she came back to California from 'camp' in 1945, none of her classmates asked her where she had been for the last three and a half years. And so it was as if the internment had never happened. She would be so happy to know that her story – in fictional form – is now being read by so many," author Otsuka said.

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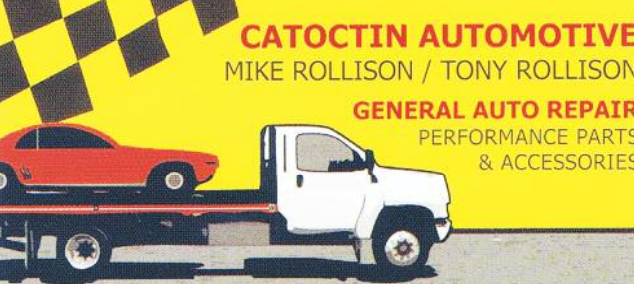
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Just Like Nothing (Else) on Earth – by Tim Jon

“Sure hope I don't meet a big truck coming my way around this next bend” ...

That's pretty much my sentiment every time I head up the narrow, gravel surface that hugs the side of the slope along Short Hill Mountain. Notice I didn't say “road,” even though that's part of the corridor's official name. That stretch that looks – and feels – like it was hewn from the side of the cliff by a bunch of itinerant workers on their way to a Saturday night party – who just sort of left it that way, for the rest of us to sort out.

Well, maybe I'm exaggerating just a little bit – but you get the general idea; I want to stress the primitive nature of this strip of earth to anyone who hasn't had the pleasure of traveling up the little path in a vehicle without 21st Century suspension – like, say, a mail truck. 'Cause that's what we (my associates and I at the Purcellville Post Office) use to get up – and down – this, as well as all those other bumpy, windy, hilly sometimes dangerous dirt roads in our daily travels and travails.

This one sort of creeps up on you. You're driving along – northbound – along Short Hill Road after it springs off of Alder School

Road, near Ketocin Church Road. It's a nice, normal enough drive for quite a stretch down in the bottomland – with Short Hill Mountain looming up ahead of you. (“Oh, Look! How pretty!”) Then, all of a sudden, you go up – right up along the shoulder of the thing – and then it gets real interesting; you're still climbing, the road angles up to the left, and it banks as you turn – so your vehicle is doing things that only a ride at the state fair ought to do – to my way of feeling. And, you'd better keep 'er movin' in this stretch – unless you want to feel yourself sliding back the same way from which you came.

Again, imagine yourself at the helm of an antiquated beast of a machine with the barest minimum of suspension (how many times has your seatbelt forcibly kept your carcass behind the wheel of that new SUV because of its bumpy ride?). Well, after what seems like a lengthy bout of bouncing, slinging, fervent praying – not to mention dodging the errant tree branch – you make it to the summit (of the road, anyway) and start your descent into the deep woods. Now, all you've got to do is just watch out for those blind corners and



loose patches of gravel – and, of course the surprises offered by hikers, bikers, runners and various wild critters. Generally, all in a day's work, for the guys – and gals – in our office.

Now, at the end of this particular delivery route, I'd get the pleasure of traveling the same road in the opposite direction – and this is where it becomes a truly visually rewarding experience. For, as you climb this same ridge from the northwestern side, the trees open up and you're offered a spectacular view of the valley off to the south and southeast.

You can see farms, schools, water towers, other bits of high ground, and lots of rolling, green topography. That is, you can see all of this if you dare take your eyes off the road for even a split-second, as your 'rig' jumps and skitters precipitously on the washboard surface; for this panoramic treat, you're far better off in your personal vehicle on an early Sunday morning – without much of the other

Short Hill Mountain



traffic using this road – and, at that time of day, the dew coming off the verdure below will form into a nice, dense- almost mysterious- bank of fog in the lowlands- seemingly just for you. Pretty evocative, if you ask me.

Oh – and those big trucks - lumbering through my imagination as I make my way up in a Postal vehicle? The regular driver on the route told me about an incident with a couple of 18-wheelers- who tried to negotiate that first banked curve; it wasn't happening. Keep your toys at home.

Saying Goodbye to Two Beautiful Souls

Arlene Janney

Evelyn Arlene Grow Janney, 89, of Lincoln, Virginia, died Aug. 8, 2012, at Sunrise of Leesburg. Born Oct. 1, 1922, in Cheltenham, Md., Arlene was the middle of 9 children and grew up on dairy farms in Maryland and near Lincoln, Va. Arlene is survived by siblings Mildred Rowell of Orland, FL, Joseph Grow of Charles Town, WV, and Lloyd Grow of

Amherst, Va; children Asa Moore (Marianne) Janney III, Rachel Janney (Kip Brundage), John Janney, and Hannah Janney; granddaughters Hannah Lauren Janney (Mike Schenkel), Myrna Estelle Janney, Kathryn Janney deButts, Elizabeth Rose (Charlie) Dillon, Beka More deButts, Ruth Hannah deButts, Eliza Kay Janney, and Molly Jay Janney; and – the light of her life – great grand-son Gabriel Christian deButts.



Marilyn SnyderMoffett

Marylyn Snyder Moffett of Purcellville, VA, died Aug. 4, 2012 at the age of 78. She is survived by her husband of 58 years, Raymond C. Moffett, Jr of Purcellville, VA; daughters Shelly Drabik of York, PA and Judy Johnson of Middleburg, Va; son Chris Moffett of



Lovettsville, Va; sister Betsy Leth of North Tustin, CA; and six grandchildren.

Passionate about sailing and tennis, Lynn Moffett was a member of the Annapolis Yacht Club and the Leesburg Tennis Club. She and her husband owned and raced a number of horses on Virginia's Steeple Chase circuit. Lynn grew up in the small town of Olney,

MD outside of Washington, DC. In 1954 Lynn married Air Force officer and fighter pilot Ray Moffett and the couple moved to Anchorage, Alaska. While her husband served the country defending its northern borders, Lynn worked as a writer at a radio station owned by the Midnight Sun Broadcasting Company. After their Alaskan adventures the couple moved back to Maryland to start a family and eventually relocated to Purcellville, Va.

Answers to crossword puzzle from page 21

W	A	S		A	T	H	E	N	A		A	X	E	S
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R	E	T	D		E	R	A	S	E	R		O	N	O

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Sushi, continued from page 21

someone had reached out to me. Someone – Hokie cat – had compassion for me and knew I needed a friend other than my parents to love me, to make me feel accepted in the barnyard and that my looks were okay, in spite of my big honker of a nose.”

“So Gnarly; what happened that day?,” I said. “What was the mischievous fun you had with Hokie cat?”

“Ummm, if I tell you Sushi, promise not to get mad?” “I promise Gnarly,” I said. “Sushi's honor!”

“Well,” said Gnarly, “That was the day Hokie cat and his brother Mountie cat got me to keep you distracted while they planned their attack on your tail during Father Jimmy's blessing of the farm! Remember when you leaped into the air, and knocked Hokie cat onto a sheep's back with his claws out? Remember, the sheep went crazy, knocking people over and ruining Father Jimmy's blessing and you were put into doggy dungeon?”

My heart sank, for those were some of the worse days in my Sushi dog's life. I never real-

ized my pain brought someone else a new life. “Sushi, my dear, dear friend,” said Gnarly, “I was the cool kid that day. Hokie and Mountie have looked out for me ever since in a special way. Because they stepped up for me is why I try to give back to others. It has helped me build my character. Sushi, we did not mean to cause such disruption. We did not mean to get you into trouble. That was really bad. But, what did happen, two ornery barn cats reached out to one poorly feeling fellow and made him their friend. You became my friend. I needed that. It was as if Old Man Moon had reached His great beam down and touched my life and said my life was worth living. Go now Sushi and reach out to little Sammy before it's too late. He needs a true friend.”

So ... for now; Gnarly Gander and I have much work to do. Remember in this new school year ... be kind unto others, for you never know how you might touch their lives.

LOVE Gnarly & SUSHI!
Come visit us at Fields of Atherny farm!

Ask Dr. Mike, continued from page 2

E, As parents, negotiating your way through moments like this can be very frustrating and upsetting, so I would like to provide you with a road map here on how to handle your situation. First, it is not clear to me from your letter if your son is attending a private or public school. If he is attending a private school, I recommend you express your concerns directly to the head of the school as soon as possible. You should also request to have your son's first and second grade teachers present at the meeting with the school head to discuss your son's struggles and to come up with an action plan for this year. They may wish to simply increase structure and provide some in-class supports and accommodations to start. By coordinating your efforts as parents with an involved school staff, your son may do just fine this year and testing would not be needed. If he continues to struggle with writing and reading, and if his attentional problems persist, even with increased support and structure, you may need to have your son tested. As parents, you typically would incur the cost for testing and not the school. Your approach would be similar if your son attends a public school. I would start by notifying the school of your son's problems last year and then schedule a meeting with his teachers and the involved school staff to assess the problem for this year. If the school deems that your son's problems are impacting his learning and education, the school psychologist is obligated to test your son at school and free of charge. You will then have a meeting to review the school psychologist's findings and report with the involved staff at the school. If your son then meets criteria for a learning disorder or ADHD, he would be afforded the appropriate educational supports and accommodations under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). If, as parents, you

are displeased with the testing results, you may also request an Independent Educational Evaluation (IEE) to be done privately. The school system typically pays the full fee to have your son assessed by a private psychologist. You could return to Ashburn Psychological Services for that testing or another Northern Virginia testing practice.

So, why is psychoeducational testing so costly? Psychoeducational testing is not covered by any insurance companies. This is because insurance companies take the position that psychoeducational testing is not a medical issue but rather an educational one, so the cost should fall to the parents. Private psychoeducational testing requires a high level of expertise and the process is lengthy. When testing privately, you are paying for both the expertise and the time. Typically, a private psychologist conducting this service interviews the parents and teachers, then spends 5 to 7 hours administering measures face-to-face with the child or teen, and then spends several more hours conducting record review, scoring and interpreting data and writing up the report. The psychologist then meets with the parents to review the findings and may spend even more time discussing things with teachers or meeting with involved school staff. If it turns out that your son has a learning disorder and/or ADHD, there are things the school can and should do to support him educationally. Schools cannot, however, treat conditions, and there would be things you would then need to do to support your son as parents – your son may need tutoring, a behavioral psychologist for therapy, or a consultation with a child psychiatrist or your pediatrician to determine if medication is warranted.

Dr. Mike, I've been dating a great guy for several months now, and I think he could

be the one for me. I am embarrassed to admit though that I snooped through his medicine cabinet and found a pill bottle for the medication, valproic acid. The prescription is a recent one. I did my research to find that valproic acid can be used to treat different things, ranging from seizure disorders to bipolar disorder. I know I shouldn't have snooped, and I feel badly about it, but I found what I found and the situation is scary to me. I told my sister and couple of my friends, and they are all unsettled by the discovery. I was hoping for some of your wise direction here.

– G in Loudoun County

G, Yes, valproic acid is a medication that is used to treat several conditions, including the ones you mentioned. I suppose in any relationship there comes a time when larger, personal issues need to be discussed, including those involving health problems. It appears that your snooping has brought you to that moment now. While I appreciate the compliment, I do not think wisdom is needed here, but rather, complete honesty. I would simply start by telling your boyfriend that you care about him and that you have a serious topic to discuss. I would then let him know that you discovered the medication in his medicine cabinet and that you know it is used to treat a variety of conditions – both mental and medical. I would also let him know that you feel badly for snooping. I would then just listen closely to what he has to say in response. If he truly is "the one" as you note, then there really should not be any big secrets between the two of you, and something like this should not be a deal-breaker on its own. Gauge your thoughts and your feelings during and after the talk. Perhaps you will feel reassured, or maybe you and your boyfriend

might need to slow things down a little as a couple. I would caution you from reacting or making any irreversible changes though inasmuch as Mr. Right does not come along everyday...and Mr. Right will never be perfect!

Dr. Mike, I discovered that my son's previous therapist recently passed away. I am not sure if and how I should share the news with him. We are currently seeing a new therapist and had no intention of returning to his previous therapist. I just want to be honest with my boy and feel he would appreciate knowing this.

– Y in Loudoun County

Y, I do not see any benefit in telling your son that his previous therapist has died. Your son had a professional relationship with that therapist and then the relationship ended. The previous therapist served his or her role for your son for a period of time, and the things your son learned in that work are what matters most. I am not suggesting you lie to your son, and I appreciate the importance you place on being honest with him. In this situation, however, I think keeping the news from him seems the right thing to do. Based on what you wrote, I am assuming your son has a good relationship with his current therapist and is addressing the things he needs to work on for himself presently in that relationship.

Michael Observantine "Dr. Mike" is the Founder and Director of Ashburn Psychological Services (APS), a private mental health clinic comprised of 12 MD and PhD level mental health clinicians. He and his team are here to serve our Loudoun children, teens and adults. To learn more about Dr. Mike and the APS team, please visit: www.ashburnpsych.com or call (703) 723-2999.

Butterflies and Bulbs, continued from page 17

scilla, muscari, and chionodoxa in various shades of blue make the most gorgeous groundcover for all of those daffodils we enjoy. They are perennial and develop good communities, providing pollen for bees in early spring.

If you haven't done it already, order more daffodils – especially the early ones and the miniatures. They are valuable additions to your landscape and will bring joy for many years with little effort on your part.

You can get Nicole's wonderful little butterfly book – it's a terrific reference for us.

Order from www.loudounwildlife.org and see how many visit your landscape.

Donna Williamson is a master gardener, garden designer, and garden coach. She has taught gardening and design classes at the State Arboretum of Virginia, Oatlands in Leesburg, and Shenandoah University. Author of The Virginia Gardener's Companion: An Insider's Guide to Low-Maintenance Gardening in Virginia, contact Donna at dwfinegardening.com, 540-877-2002.

REAL ESTATE TICKER, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 19

nity to benefit: 1) house prices, though now rising slightly, are still at five-year lows, and 2) the mortgage interest rates are incredibly low, with few, if any, points to be paid on top.

Plus, rental rates are on a runaway upward spiral.

For example, in March of this year I looked at a one-bedroom condo in an upscale location just east of Leesburg. It was available with a one-year lease for \$1,170 per month plus amenities. In May, a family member rented one such unit, but by then, the rate had climbed to \$1,310/month plus.

Now an identical unit in the same property is now asking \$1,485/month.

Do the math. If you bought a \$350,000 house in 2006, put \$11,000 down, and paid 6.8 percent interest for a 30-year fixed loan, your monthly payment would have been approximately \$2,210 per month, plus taxes, insurance, and fees.

Today, with a 20 percent decline in market value, the price of the same property might be \$280,000, and with an FHA 30-year fixed interest rate of 3.75 percent, and with the same \$11,000 down, your monthly payment would be approximately

\$1,250 per month plus fees.

If you have the ability to move from a rental situation, you may be far better off to shift gears and buy a condo, townhouse or single-family home, so that these once-in-a-lifetime low interest rates work to your benefit.

And even if you need to sell your present property because you're upside down, and must sign a personal note for the shortfall in order to walk away, a large part of the repayment of that personal note can come directly from the reduced monthly mortgage payment you will be making with your new, low-interest, 30-year loan.

If you have specific questions you'd like answered right now, call me at 703-727-5025. or drop me a line at carl@ucnv.net.

Carl Fischer is the Broker/Owner of United Country Real Estate, specializing in commercial, investment, and selected residential properties, as well as Northern Neck of Virginia waterfront homes. He is licensed in Virginia and West Virginia, and is a member of the Dulles Area Association of Realtor (DAAR) as well as the Northern Neck Association of Realtors (NNAR)

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Charity Golf Tournament

A Sept. 16 golf tournament will assist Loudoun resident Freddie Hetzel and his family.

Hetzel has been paralyzed since a 2011 accident. Money raised at the tournament will go to a fitness facility in the Northern Virginia area that will provide Hetzel and other individuals suffering from paralysis with access to the affordable fitness, health and wellness resources they need to live a long and healthy lives.

Hetzel is currently being treated at the Frazier Institute in Louisville, Ky. He is part of the Christopher and Dana Reeve Foundation NeuroRecovery Network (NRN) program, a cutting-edge rehabilitation center where he is able to engage in an hour of Locomotor Training each day.

Hetzel is suspended in a harness over a treadmill while therapists move his legs to simulate walking.

For some individuals in this program, the repeated guided stepping has helped regain motor function because the sensory information is recognized by the spinal cord and it responds by generating a stepping pattern of muscle activity.

The golf tournament is at River Creek Country Club. Cost is \$200 per player and includes dinner.

To register or for more information on the tournament and dinner or to make a donation to help those living with paralysis, visit www.helpfreddiewalk.net or call 703-777-5300.

Amy Smith, continued from page 12

contract during the first half of 2013 (i.e. we would likely experience a recession). It's impossible to predict exactly how all this will play out. One thing is for sure, though: the "fiscal cliff" figures to feature prominently in the national dialogue between now and November.

Amy V. Smith Wealth Management, LLC, is an independent firm. Amy is a Certified Financial Planner (CFP) and Certified Investment Management Analyst (CIMA) and offers securities through Raymond James Financial Services, Inc., member FINRA/SIPC. Her office is located at 161 Fort Evans Road, NE, Ste 345, Leesburg, VA 20176. (703-669-5022). www.amy-smithwealthmanagement.com.

The opinions and recommendations are those of the columnist. Contents prepared by Broadridge Investor Communication Solutions, Inc.

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<p>EVEN MORE!</p> <p>Lovettsville \$150,000 2.8 acres</p> <p>Leesburg \$599,000 Commercial Bldg. on 1/3 acres</p>	<p>RENTALS</p> <p>Bluemont \$1300/month</p> <p>Leesburg \$3800/month</p>	 <p>4 BR, 3.5 BA, 3588 sqft 3.58 acres w/ pool Leesburg \$589,990 LO7816890</p>
 <p>UNDER CONTRACT 4 BR, 4.5 BA, 3924 sq ft, .24 acres Lansdowne \$669,000 LO7889319</p>	 <p>UNDER CONTRACT 2 BR, 1 BA, 1200 sq ft 1 acre Lovettsville \$235,000 LO7889070</p>	 <p>UNDER CONTRACT 3 BR, 2.5 BA, 2500 sq ft, .09 acres Ashburn \$439,900 LO7893308</p>
 <p>SOLD 4 BR, 4 BA, 3,052 sqft 3.4 acres Hamilton \$569,000</p>	 <p>SOLD 4 BR, 6.5 BA, approx 7000 sqft, 3.93 acres Round Hill \$699,900 LO7775017</p>	 <p>SOLD 5 BR, 4.5 BA, 4519 sq ft, 3.06 acres Hamilton \$620,000 LO7884288</p>

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